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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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INSIDE

BUSINESS



The government gives a snapshot of the U.S. economy.

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ASIA



China strips disgraced politician Bo Xilai of his last position.

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LIFE & STYLE



Carly Rae Jepsen is Billboard's Rising Star of 2012.

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CUC completes \$4.9M wastewater project. PAGE 3
August visitor arrivals rise sharply by 20 percent. PAGE 5

House panel stops new Managaha rules

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Just in the nick of time, the House Natural Resources Committee came to the rescue of hundreds of marine sports operators, their families, and supporters late yesterday afternoon by stopping—at least for now—the Department of Public Lands from implementing on Monday new rules that limit how tourists from Managaha Island are picked up for parasailing and banana boat tours, among other commercial activities.

Acting DPL secretary Ray Salas later said he will decide on the House panel's request after his meeting on Thursday with the committee chairman and the parties involved.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, asked DPL for an additional

See HOUSE on Page 4

» Rules supposed to be implemented Monday
» Marine sports operators, supporters troop to Capital Hill



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A boy walks past a banner that sums up marine sports operators' sentiment, minutes before the House Natural Resources Committee held a public hearing yesterday afternoon on the Department of Public Lands' proposal to amend its regulations on the commercial use of Managaha Island.

New chief justice vows to uphold highest standards



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, administers the oath of office on Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, left, while the justice's wife Carmen, center, holds the Bible during a well-attended investiture ceremony at the House of Justice in Susupe yesterday, 15 days after the Senate confirmed his appointment.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Cruz Castro officially took office yesterday with a pledge to uphold the highest professional standards his predecessors set.

That's why he needs the help of Associate Justice John A. Manglona and all Superior Court judges to achieve his

goals for the Judiciary, he said.

"With your assistance (and the assistance of the executive and legislative branches of our government), I firmly believe we can dispense justice in a timely fashion and deliver quality judicial services on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, notwithstanding the water that separates our islands and the economic downturn here and abroad," said Castro in his address during his investiture ceremony at the CNMI Supreme Court.

Castro vowed to work tirelessly to achieve his goals—a well-functioning and independent Judiciary, alternative dispute resolution, legal representation for the poor, engaging the community to improve judicial services, and continuing to invest in the Commonwealth's children.

In his remarks, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

See JUSTICE on Page 4

British army dog joins list of animal war heroes

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—British soldiers and military dogs gathered at a London army barracks Thursday to honor a fallen hero with selfless courage, nerves of steel—and four legs.

Theo, a bomb-sniffing springer spaniel who died in Afghanistan on the day his soldier partner was killed, was posthumously honored with the Dickin Medal, Britain's highest award for bravery by animals.

Theo worked alongside Lance Cpl. Liam Tasker, searching for roadside bombs in Helmand province, a Taliban stronghold.

Tasker, 26, died in a firefight with insurgents in March 2011, and Theo suffered a fatal seizure hours later. Tasker's mother, Jane Duffy, says the pair were inseparable. She's convinced Theo died of a broken heart.

"They'll be watching us, and they'll be so proud," she said. "I just wish they were here to get it themselves."

Since 1943, the Dickin Medal has recognized gallantry by animals serving with the military, police or rescue services. Some of these animal heroes:

CANINE COMMANDOS

See DOG on Page 4

Local

Fitial calls on lawmakers to be 'collaborative'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial called on lawmakers to be "collaborative," days after a letter to the Senate and House asking for another joint leadership summit has yet to receive a response.

The House leadership aligned

with the governor looks forward to the meeting, but Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) has reservations about the governor's request.

Manglona said if the governor is serious about moving the CNMI forward, for example, he should look at other proposals besides casinos and invalidate

the sole-source \$190.8-million power purchase agreement for a 50-megawatt diesel power plant, among other things.

Fitial said that since he became governor, he made "NMD my priority." He said NMD refers to "no more delay."

"The attitude must be collaborative instead of... not willing to

cooperate," Fitial told reporters.

He said he's still waiting for a date and time from the Senate.

"Well election is coming up so, we have to answer to the people... I'm not playing games. We are in dire straits now. We need to work together," he said.

The Fitial administration is pushing for a new 5 percent "fat" tax to help the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and combat obesity, and revisit Saipan casino proposals.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), meanwhile, wrote the Senate president an Oct. 22 letter, hoping that Manglona would meet with House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and agree on a convenient time for a meeting with the governor.

"I assume the governor welcomes participation of every

member in the Legislature as I feel that elected leaders should meet and address a solution for many of the problems that can be resolved in the short period of time remaining in the 17th Legislature. The governor made it clear that he wanted both houses

to set the date of the meeting," Reyes told Manglona.

The governor's call for another joint leadership meeting came after the defeat of a House resolution impeaching him for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

NAP revises issuance schedule

The Nutrition Assistance Program Office wishes to inform the public that the NAP Office will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012, in observance of CNMI Election Day, a legal holiday.

As a result, there will be no food stamp issuance on that day. The food stamp issuance for alphabets:

I - M will be issued on Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012

N - R will be issued on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012

S - Z will be issued on Friday, Nov. 9, 2012

Open Day is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012 for those who were not able to pick up their food stamps on their scheduled date above. The schedules for alphabets A-D and E-H remain the same as previously announced. (Office of the Governor)

OAG objects to Fund trustee *ad litem's* compensation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Calling a court's order a misstep, the Office of the Attorney General is objecting to U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood's decision requiring the CNMI government to compensate the NMI Retirement Fund's trustee *ad litem*, Joseph C. Razzano.

Assistant attorney general Reena Patel said there is no legal basis to require the CNMI government to compensate Razzano.

It is fundamentally unjust to require the CNMI government to compensate the trustee *ad litem* because it has not been found liable for any wrongdoing in this case, said Patel in a motion for reconsideration and objections filed in federal court on Wednesday on behalf of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, and

the CNMI government.

Patel said the CNMI government was not even the party that requested for a trustee *ad litem* to be appointed in connection with the lawsuit filed by Betty Johnson.

The government lawyer said that Razzano's rate of compensation is unreasonable.

Patel asked the federal court to reconsider and rescind its order.

Razzano is billing the CNMI government \$34,620.80 for expenses and professional fees.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the CNMI government to pay Razzano within five business days from Wednesday, Oct. 17.

Razzano is also asking for \$19,935.72 in payment for the professional fees and expenses of the Fund's two other attorneys, Braddock J. Huesman and Daniel Berman.

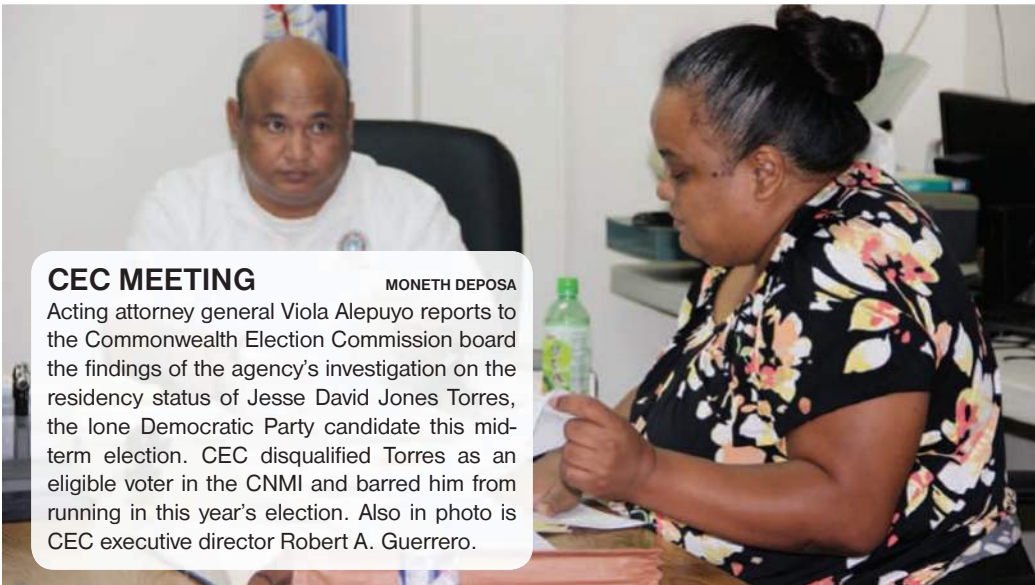
Patel argues that the most equitable compensation scheme would be for the court to cover the costs of Razzano or for

Johnson to cover the trustee *ad litem's* expenses as she requested the appointment.

What happens then if Johnson's case is dismissed, either voluntarily or involuntarily, Patel asked. "Would the people of the Commonwealth be stuck with the fees for the trustee *ad litem* who was appointed at the request of the plaintiff in the event that her claims are deemed to be unmeritorious?" she asked.

Patel said the \$34,620.80 that Razzano is asking for just one month of services and expenses is "clearly unreasonable." This comes close to exhausting the annual cap of \$42,000 for the entire Fund board's compensation, she added.

Tydingco-Gatewood earlier ruled that the CNMI government shall be responsible for compensation and expenses for Razzano and all persons or entities employed or contracted by the trustee *ad litem* in carrying out his duties.



CEC MEETING

MONETH DEPOSA

Acting attorney general Viola Alepuyo reports to the Commonwealth Election Commission board the findings of the agency's investigation on the residency status of Jesse David Jones Torres, the lone Democratic Party candidate this mid-term election. CEC disqualified Torres as an eligible voter in the CNMI and barred him from running in this year's election. Also in photo is CEC executive director Robert A. Guerrero.

Saipan Tribune

will be suspending publication of its Saturday issue starting November 2012.



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Census: Hotel and food service highest industry in NMI

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, issued yesterday a report on the U.S. Census County Business Patterns for the CNMI.

County Business Patterns, as defined by U.S. Census, is an annual series that provides subnational economic data by industry. This series includes the number of establishments, employment during the week of March 12, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll. This data is useful for studying the economic activity of small areas; analyzing economic changes over time; and as a benchmark for other statistical series, surveys, and databases between economic censuses.

Businesses use the data for

analyzing market potential, measuring the effectiveness of sales and advertising programs, setting sales quotas, and developing budgets. Government agencies use the data for administration and planning.

County Business Patterns (CNMI): Local Business Snapshot indicates the following:

The top five sectors in the CNMI by number of Business Establishments as of 2010:

- Retail Trade (241)
- Accommodation and Food Services (140)
- Real Estate/Rental/Leasing (110)
- Other Services (except Public Administration) (99)
- Professional/Scientific and

Technical Services (89) Number of Retail Trade Business in CNMI by Industry as of 2010:

- Food and Beverage Stores (63)
- Other Retail Industries (49)
- Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores (36)
- General Merchandise Stores (36)
- Miscellaneous Store Retailers (24)
- Gasoline Stations (19)
- Electronics and Appliance Stores (14)

This indicated that Accommodation and Food Services rank as the highest industry with the highest annual payroll of \$31 million followed up by Retail Trade's \$21 million and

Transportation and Warehousing following in a distance at \$13 million.

Retail Trade establishments

garnered the largest number of establishments (241). This is followed by Accommodation and Food Services with 140

establishments. Real Estate and Rental and Leasing came in second under Retail Trade. (*Office of the Governor*)

ACCREDITATION TEAM CONCLUDES SITE VISIT

NMC prepares supplemental report

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The evaluation team from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities concluded on Thursday their visit to the Northern Marianas College.

The team visit to the college was part of the overall institutional self-evaluation process that helps NMC consider the quality of its programs and services and its effectiveness in producing competent graduates.

During its visit that started Monday, the team held interviews and verified the information provided in the self-evaluation report that NMC submitted to WASC in August.

Team members met with faculty, students, staff, administrators, and members of the Board of Regents. It also conducted open meetings with members of the campus community.

NMC, in a statement, said the visit was organized by NMC's new accreditation liaison officer, Amanda Allen, who is also the Distance Learning Education director.

The visiting team will now draft its evaluation report and, once finalized, will submit it to commission members who will decide NMC's accreditation status at their January 2013 meeting.

"Over the past several months, members of the college community had been working in teams to prepare the institutional self-evaluation report and to ensure that its contents accurately reflect the college's progress in meeting accreditation standards and eligibility requirements," said NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., adding that the college had looked forward to this visit to further demonstrate NMC's compliance with accreditation standards and team recommendations.

"Although the visit has now

concluded, there is still much to be done. We will now be preparing our supplemental report that will be submitted to the commission before its meeting in January," added Hart.

According to her, students, staff, faculty and members of the board have contributed significantly to the college's accreditation efforts. "We will continue to engage them, our legislative and executive leaders, and the members of the community to continue our momentum to accreditation reaffirmation," she said.

NMC was placed on continued probation status last year due to standards and recommendations that have yet to be met.

The visiting team was headed by Dr. Gari Browning, and included Jill Ferguson, Kathleen Mendelsohn, James Keller, Jeff Shimizu, Dr. Christopher Villa, Roger Welt, Eddie West, Chui Tsang, Clyde Sakamoto, Gilbert Rodriguez, and Dr. Patricia Prado.

CUC completes \$4.9M wastewater project

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Thousands of wastewater customers on island would soon benefit from the recent completion of the rehabilitation of the Aguingan Point wastewater treatment plant.

Funded by federal grants to the tune of \$4.9 million, the project is expected to benefit residents from Chalan Laulau to Koblerville and the Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. estimates its customers in these areas at around 17,000.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled at the site on Monday and it is expected to be graced not only by CUC officials and elected government leaders but also Interior Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta himself.

According to CUC, the wastewater treatment plant was originally built at the site in 1992. At its prime, the Aguingan Point Treatment Plant had

the capacity to treat three million gallons per day. However, throughout the years, the plant deteriorated and suffered several failures, resulting in long periods of non-compliance with federal standards.

Brian Bearden, CUC's engineer and U.S. Public Health Service Officer, explained that the project entailed the replacement of virtually all mechanical components of the plant, including aerators, pumps, valves, and controls and the replacement of major concrete structural components.

"The new concrete structure was built with epoxy-coated rebar and a special, resistant concrete mix designed for long service life under hostile wastewater environment, and the railings, which were constantly falling apart, were replaced with durable aluminum," he said in a statement.

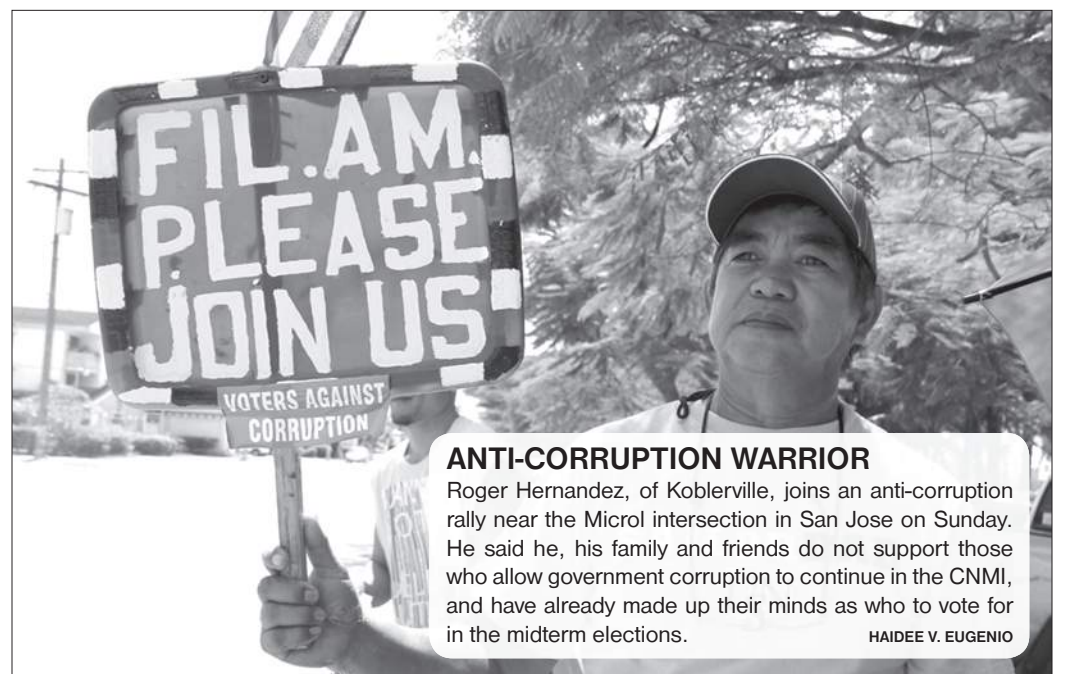
CUC acting executive director Alan Fletcher said the rehabilitation project would not

have been possible without the funding assistance of the Office of Insular Affairs and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"With funding assistance from these two agencies, we were able to repair and rehabilitate the facility and bring it back to its full operating capacity," he said.

Fletcher said the funding assistance also allowed CUC to build a new staff office for both administrative uses and plant health and safety purposes, and a separate building that houses the backup generator.

Grant funds also paid for vehicles and plant equipment, which include a Bobcat loader, mini-excavator, dump truck, trailer, and numerous tools and safety equipment.



ANTI-CORRUPTION WARRIOR

Roger Hernandez, of Koblerville, joins an anti-corruption rally near the Microl intersection in San Jose on Sunday. He said he, his family and friends do not support those who allow government corruption to continue in the CNMI, and have already made up their minds as who to vote for in the midterm elections.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Today's rally brings together Covenants, Dems, independents

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Barely a week after an anti-corruption rally comes a rally for "clean govern-

ment" that will bring together members and supporters of the Covenant Party, the Democratic Party, so-called Independent Republicans and independents from 10am to 3pm today at the Mina-

chom Atdao pavilion in Susupe.

Just like last Sunday's anti-corruption rally, today's rally will include road waving and holding of banners.

This time, however, speakers will feature private citizens, government officials, and political candidates.

"All residents interesting in returning power to the people are urged to attend," the organizers said.

Next weekend, the Republican Party

headed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will also hold a mass rally.

With barely days before the Nov. 6 mid-term elections, concerned citizens and political parties are drumming up support to their parties and candidates.

JUSTICE

From Page 1

tial said he and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos are very confident that Castro will successfully lead the way forward in his duty to uphold the protection of individual rights, the rule of law, and the administration of justice in the CNMI.

"Chief Justice Castro has always been known to be judiciously fair and impartial in his court decisions," he said, citing the chief justice's 23 years of service as a judge of the Superior Court and as a justice of the Supreme Court and, before that, his three years as attorney general and 11 years as a prosecutor and a defense attorney.

Fitial said that Castro's "unblemished professional record and renowned accomplishments" was made even more evident by the vast support of the community.

"His nomination drew an outpouring of support from our local community



CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Cruz Castro is joined by judges, justices, family members, friends, supporters, lawyers, lawmakers, Cabinet members, and other community members after his investiture at the CNMI Supreme Court yesterday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

and from various other jurisdictions throughout the Pacific," the governor said.

Fitial administered the oath of office for Castro.

In his welcoming remarks, associate justice Manglona said he and Castro have sat together on the Supreme Court for the past 13 years, but they go back to their days at the Attorney General's

Office in the late 1980s when Castro was attorney general.

"This long history has illuminated just how much stability and integrity Chief Justice Castro possesses. At no time in the history of this Court has the imperative for stability and integrity at the top of our Judiciary been more acute," Manglona said.

All current judges were present at

the investiture rites, along with retired chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz, former associate justice Jesus C. Borja, former associate judge Timothy H. Bellas, and retired associate judge Herbert D. Soll.

Among the guests in the ceremony were from the Unified Courts of Guam—Chief Justice F. Philip Carbulido, associate justice Robert J. Torres,

and presiding judge Alberto C. Lamorena III. The other guests were Chuuk State Court Chief Justice Camillo Noket and Pohnpei State Supreme Court Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriguez.

The courtroom was packed with Castro's family members, friends, supporters, lawyers, lawmakers, Cabinet members, and other community members.

DOG

From Page 1

Theo is the 28th dog to receive the medal, awarded by animal charity PDSA and named for its founder, Maria Dickin.

One of the earliest winners was Rip, a mongrel found abandoned in a bomb shelter and adopted by a London air raid warden. He was credited with finding more than 100 people trapped in rubble by German bombs during the 1940 Blitz.

Another World War II hero was Rob, a collie who joined British commandos in more than 20 parachute operations

behind enemy lines in North Africa and Italy. His medal citation said that "his presence with these parties saved many of them from discovery and subsequent capture or destruction."

Dogs have also been honored for service in Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and during terrorist attacks.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, Apollo, a New York Police Department German shepherd, received the medal on behalf of all search and rescue dogs at the sites in New York and Washington, "for tireless courage in the service of humanity."

WINGED WARRIORS

public comments received by DPL—all opposing its proposed rule.

About a hundred marine sports operators, their families and supporters—mostly clad in white shirts—trooped to the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill, asking the House Natural Resources Committee to stop Monday's implementation of the proposed rules.

They also brought with them banners that read, "DPL should not change the rules after 18 years," and "Save local marine sports industry! Save our livelihood! Tourism needs us."

Cuki Alvarez of Taotao Marine Sports said their customers don't make reservations with Tasi Tours but with marine sports operators like themselves.

"Tasi Tours already controls Managaha; they want to control the lagoon... Please kill this rule before it kills the livelihood of everybody," Alvarez told the House committee.

'Exclusive right'

Rexford Kosack, legal counsel for Tasi Tours, said if the CNMI government has entered into a contract with Tasi Tours promising that Tasi Tours will have the exclusive right to parasailing and banana boating, "then Tasi Tours is entitled to that right."

"When Tasi Tours has paid the government millions of dollars for this

Pigeons' homing instinct makes them excellent messengers, and more than 200,000 served with British forces during World War II. Some 32 were awarded the Dickin Medal for carrying back vital information from the frontline.

Feathered medal-winners include Gustav, a pigeon serving with the Royal Air Force, "for delivering the first message from the Normandy Beaches from a ship off the beachhead" on June 6, 1944, the day of the D-Day landings.

GI Joe, a member of the U.S. Army Pigeon Service, was honored for flying 20 miles (32 kilometers) in 20 minutes with a message that stopped U.S.

planes bombing an Italian town occupied by British troops in October 1943, saving the lives of at least 100 Allied soldiers and many civilians.

HEROIC HORSES

Upstart, a London police horse, is one of three equine recipients of the medal.

He was honored for a World War II incident in which a German flying bomb exploded 75 yards away, "showing both horse and rider with broken glass and debris."

Despite this, "Upstart was completely unperturbed and remained quietly on duty with his rider," controlling traffic until calm was restored.

A FEARLESS FELINE

Only one cat has ever received the

Dickin Medal.

Simon, a Royal Navy ship's mascot, was honored for his service on HMS Amethyst, a ship shelled by Chinese Communist forces on the Yangtze River in 1949.

Despite being seriously wounded by shrapnel, Simon returned to his rat-killing duties aboard the damaged ship, which was trapped for months in Chinese waters.

"Throughout the incident his behavior was of the highest order," the citation said.

Simon and the ship's crew were greeted as heroes when they made it back to England, but the cat died weeks before he was due to receive his medal.

HOUSE

From Page 1

30 days or up to Nov. 29 for the panel to come up with recommendations before the department implements the new rules.

For more than three hours or up to almost 5:30pm yesterday, the House panel heard from affected parties on the proposed amended rules on the commercial use of Managaha, including the exclusive concessionaire on the island, Tasi Tours, marine sports operators, and DPL.

Prior to the hearing in the House chamber, DPL was poised to adopt the amendment to the 1993 rules on Managaha's commercial use. The proposed amended regulations provide that picking up persons for commercial activities from Managaha, regardless of how such persons were initially transported to the island, is limited to a designated concessionaire.

At the hearing, Salas was accompanied by DPL legal counsel Michael Wilt.

Attorney Bruce Berline, who spoke in support of his friends in the marine sports industry, asked DPL whether as a public agency, it will adopt regulations that do not have public support. Berline was referring to at least 322

right, it certainly should expect that the government will deliver on each and every one of its promises. If the Commonwealth cannot deliver on these basic promises to a key company in its tourism industry, what company will want to do business with us?" Kosack told the committee.

Besides Kosack, Tasi Tours general manager for corporate planning David Igitol also spoke in support of DPL's proposed regulations.

Igitol said Tasi Tours has paid \$10 million to Public Lands for the exclusive commercial concession rights on Managaha. It has eight subcontractors that operate on Managaha engaging in businesses like marine sports, food and beverage service, and retail operations.

"Having paid for, and been promised, an exclusive concession, Tasi should receive an exclusive concession. To expect Tasi to accept a non-exclusive concession would not be fair, and it would not be in the best interest of Managaha or the people of the CNMI," he added.

But attorneys representing marine operators said there's no question about Tasi Tours' exclusive concessionaire agreement with DPL, but on DPL's proposed rule.

Other marine sports operators, including 73-year-old David Pangelinan, questioned DPL's decision to change

its rules when he and other operators have already invested a lot of money to run their business.

He said it's going to be "terrible" for him and his family if DPL's proposed rules are implemented.

Mark Scoggins, one of the lawyers for the marine sports operators, told the House committee that based on what they're hearing from Tasi Tours during the hearing is this: Once marine sports operators drop their customers on Managaha, they are no longer their customers, and they can no longer leave Managaha to do parasailing or banana boat tours with these operators even on their way back to Saipan.

Another alternative, the marine sports operators said, based on the proposed rules, is for these tourists to go back to Saipan and from there, do their parasailing or banana boat tours.

The marine sports operators said that when they bring their customers to Managaha, Tasi Tours benefits from not only the landing fee but also from the money spent by tourists on food, massages, buying from the souvenir shops, and other commercial activities.

Another lawsuit?

Matthew Smith, also representing the marine sports operators, said if DPL implements the proposed amended rules, they face another lawsuit from

the very same operators.

These include Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc., Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.

Smith asked that the parties talk more about the proposed rule "or not implement" it ever.

Gordon Marciano of PDI said if tourists are not given the flexibility with their activities, they will not come back and go instead to the next destination. In the end, the whole CNMI suffers.

Yesterday's hearing at the House followed a lengthy meeting of the representatives of the parties involved with the House Natural Resources committee chairman. The parties hope that after their Thursday meeting, they will be able to find common ground.

Rep. Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) said the law authorizes the Legislature or its committee to order DPL to hold a public hearing on its proposed rule.

"I would like to thank chairman Palacios for acting swiftly on this looming situation. On the eve of DPL's implementation, all we're asking is to come together first and see how we could help our tourism industry. We're fighting over rules that really shouldn't be amended," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*.

Also at the committee hearing were Reps. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

August visitor arrivals rise sharply by 20 percent

August 2012 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 20 percent compared to August 2011, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

In a statement yesterday, MVA said that arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 40,225 visitors in August compared to 33,503 in August 2011.

Overall, visitor arrivals are up 15 percent so far this fiscal year to 359,003 visitors.

Arrivals from Japan reached 17,969 visitors in August, 17 percent higher than August last year, as the Japan market continues to stabilize, and re-establishes its position as the Northern Marianas' No. 1 source market of incoming tourists. Delta Air Lines launched an additional four weekly flights from Narita on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday beginning July 14 and continuing through Sept. 24. Asiana Airlines began operating daily flights from Osaka on July 16 continuing through Aug. 31. In addition, Asiana Airlines launched seasonal charter flights from Narita to Saipan from Aug. 16 to 22. These additional flights all significantly boosted the number of Japanese visitors to the Northern Marianas during the peak summer season versus last year. From September, however, the challenge will be to continue this growth momentum in the face of an un-

certain airlift situation out of the Japan market.

Arrivals from Korea posted a seventh consecutive month of double-digit increases, up 22 percent to 12,810 visitors. Asiana Airlines relaunched a second weekly service from Busan to Saipan on June 13, which had been suspended since June of last year due to lack of available aircraft. So far this fiscal year, visitor arrivals from Korea are up 19 percent to 118,361 compared to the same period last year. The supply of air seats to the NMI out of the Korea market is projected to continue to increase in the final quarter of the year, with Asiana Airlines boosting its Busan-Saipan service from two to four flights a week beginning Nov. 20, and ensuring continued strong growth in Korean arrivals through the end of the year.

Arrivals from China have shown tremendous consistent growth each month this year compared to last year, jumping another 32 percent in August to 6,762 visitors. So far this fiscal year, the Northern Marianas has received 73 percent more visitors from China as the same period last year due to the launch of new flights, including six weekly flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou. Continuous significant growth in Chinese arrivals is projected through the end of the year thanks to China's National Day holidays in October, the launch of new flights



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONCERT FUNDRAISER

The Japanese country music group G GAP poses with Delta Air Lines' Esther Sound and other members of the audience during their Oct. 5 show at the Country House Restaurant in Garapan.

from Beijing in November, and ongoing major media and travel agent promotions launched by the MVA's new China office.

Meanwhile, arrivals were down 15 percent from Russia to 359 in August. Arrivals from Russia have increased 11 percent so far this fiscal year, compared to last. Biweekly charter flights by AviaCharter DV commenced from Vladivostok yesterday, Oct. 26, providing 150 seats per charter flight.

Arrivals were up in August from Guam (up 16 percent to 1,293), the United States (up 50 percent to 727) and Other Areas (up 9 percent to 234), but lower from the Philippines (down 25 percent to 40), and Hong Kong (down 81 percent to 31).

Economic highlights

The Japanese Cabinet Office's August economic report as-

sessed that the country's recovery continues at a moderate pace, spurred on by reconstruction demand. The Japanese yen to U.S. dollar exchange rate remained stable throughout August, ending trading at 78.39 yen to the U.S. dollar. The number of Japanese outbound passengers in July reached a preliminary total of 1.6 million, for an increase of 8.85 percent over 2011. Travel agent JTB's nonprofit think tank, the JTB Foundation, predicted that outbound travel from Japan will climb to as high as 19 million in the 2012 calendar year, an increase of 11.8 percent from last year.

The Korean economy shows recent signs of overall weakening with the fall in exports caused by worsening external conditions and moderate growth in domestic demand. The won/dollar exchange rate rose 4.73 from previous month to finish at

1,133.4. According to the Korea Tourism Organization, the number of Korean outbound travelers in July was 1,305,418, an increase of 5.1 percent compared to the same month in 2011. According to the Office of Travel & Tourism Industry, the number of Korean visitors to the U.S. in May was 97,309, an increase of 1.2 percent compared to the same month in 2011.

China's Ministry of Finance reported tax revenues grew 8.2 percent year-on-year to \$168.77 billion in July. China's Foreign Exchange Trading System said the nation's currency the renminbi, or yuan, weakened 29 basis points to 6.3478 against the U.S. dollar on August 20. According to Xinhua.net, China's economy will experience continued slowdown and the government will need to implement more

economic stimulus programs. China's GDP expanded by 7.6 percent in the second quarter of 2012, the first time the world's second largest economy's growth had fallen below 8 percent since the fourth quarter of 2009.

China's Ministry of Public Security reported that 38.6 million mainland Chinese citizens traveled outside the country's borders in the first half of this year, a nearly 20 percent rise over the same period last year and close to double the number in 2007. With this year's surge, Chinese tourists are on track to make around 80 million overseas trips during 2012. The figures should give cause for optimism to destinations and consumer brands worried that China's slower economic growth would reduce spending on travel. (MVA)

CDA loans out \$1.3M in FY 2012

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority released \$1.3 million worth of loans in fiscal year 2012, according to comptroller Danny Militante.

Militante, in his report to the Development Corporation Division during Thursday's meeting, said the amount was for seven different loan applications approved last fiscal year and does not include the \$600,000 issued to Arctic Circle.

As of Sept. 30, loan fund balance is at \$1.4 million, he said.

Militante noted that there are amounts that CDA has already committed but not yet disbursed, including the \$36,000 for Blue Continent Communications and \$28,000 in Brownfields fund.

On the revenue side, executive director Manuel Sablan said performing loans last fiscal year generated \$375,000, while the debt relief program generated \$352,000.

"Despite the fact that it's a low interest rate, it's [debt relief program] generating cash flow," he added.

Meanwhile, Militante said CDA expects revenue collection to reach \$410,000 in fiscal year 2013, which is based on the actual revenue received last fiscal year 2011.

"Our projection for FY 2011 is \$350,000 but we received \$410,000 in principal and miscellaneous repayments, which is \$60,000 more than our original projection," he said.

Militante expressed confidence that they can surpass the projected collection given other sources of revenue for the new fiscal year.


He said the agency forecasts spending at \$680,000 instead of the approved \$800,000 budget, generating \$120,000 in savings, which include vacant positions that CDA decided not to fill, leading to reduced employer contribution obligations.

Militante also projects \$1.1 million in properties to be sold, but noted that the agency will not get the actual cash right away as some of the properties end up in lease purchase.


When asked about the agency's fallback plan in the event collections do not add up, Militante said the agency can rely on the State Small Business Credit Initiative program, which gives out loans and stimulate the local economy.

"By the time the program ends, then we have enough again to loan out for businesses," he said.

Militante added that CDA will continue with its cost-cutting measures to bridge the gap between revenue and expense and eventually eliminate the gap.



**CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**
Monday, October 29, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.
BOE Conference Room
Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Monday, October 29, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary**
 - 1) Call to Order
 - 2) Roll Call
 - 3) Adoption of Agenda
 - 4) Adoption of Minutes
 - a) October 24, 2012 RBOE Meeting
- II. Public Comments¹**
- III. New Business**
 - 1) Certification & Licensure Officer Position
- IV. Executive Session²**
 - 1) Legal Updates
 - 2) Personnel
 - 3) Other matters
- V. Miscellaneous Matters**
- VI. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**
- VII. Adjournment**

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



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SUNDAYS (8:00 am – 10:00 pm)**

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Let's get out of Afghanistan

After Monday night's third presidential debate, Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who was a stand-in for Mitt Romney during President Obama's prep sessions, said he never expected Romney to agree with President Obama's timetable for leaving Afghanistan in 2014.

For most of the campaign, after all, Romney has attacked Obama for setting any date at all for withdrawing combat troops from Afghanistan—at 11 years, now the nation's longest war. Yet the Republican did a reverse on Monday, promising that he too is for getting out in two years.

End of debate, apparently, which is why we wish that Sen. Kerry could have posed the question that he himself famously posed in 1971 after returning from combat in Vietnam: "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?"

The American people are now as opposed to the war in Afghanistan as they were to that in Vietnam 40 years ago. An Associated Press poll in May found that only 27 percent of Americans still support the war while 66 percent oppose it, which puts it in the same territory as the height of opposition to Vietnam.

So why are both presidential candidates promising to keep combat troops there for two more years—and likely a so-called "residual force" after that? Why are we asking thousands of America's young men and women to be the last Americans to die for this mistake? So far, almost 2,100 already have, with another 17,790 wounded, and it has cost American taxpayers more than a half a trillion dollars so far.

After the debate, the professional fact-checkers were all over the candidates' assertions, including their references to the auto-industry bailout, exports to China and Romney's charge that Obama had made a world "apology tour" (a "pants on fire" whopper, they said). But the checkers were AWOL on the president's claim that the "surge" of 33,000 troops into Afghanistan in late 2009—and which ended last month—was a success. It wasn't.

According to NATO forces' documents acquired by reporter Spencer Ackerman, things are worse in Afghanistan now than they were before the surge, with more attacks, not fewer. Even more troubling is the nature of some of those attacks.

The American exit strategy is predicated on training Afghans to fight the resurgent Taliban. But now some Afghan troops, taught to use lethal weapons, are using them on their American mentors. There's a name for the phenomenon: "green on blue" killings, which have claimed the lives of 50 coalition-force members so far. The attacks so rattled the U.S. forces that some of the training was suspended last month. It has now resumed, but after 11 years of failure it's hard to believe that something miraculous will happen in the next two, especially since some of "insider attacks" are not from the Taliban but from ordinary Afghans enraged at the occupation of their country.

Despite what the presidential candidates say or don't say, it's time for an orderly and safe withdrawal of our troops. And once we get out of Afghanistan, we need to take a hard look at the political system that allows our leaders to wage a war that most Americans don't want.

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"Honey, the baby said her first words!..."

Mother Teresa

She was an indefatigable worker with a heart as big as India casting a shadow over the AfroEurAsia continent, with a sense of mission as high as the Himalayas. Albanian-born Indian Roman Catholic nun Agnes Gonxhe Bojaxhiu, better known as Mother Teresa of Calcutta, was once asked after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize what one would do to promote world peace. Without hesitation, she responded reflexively: "Go home and love your family."

Much as we would want to delve into the life of the celebrated, beatified, and world-acclaimed saint of the Indian *haridjan*, consoler of the terminally ill, and aid-giver of Africa's HIV-AID victim, the Teresa in our title is actually our daughter who is a mother of two young boys, most recently heard lilting their Irish accent in the foothills of east Oakland in California.

We might have missed a couple of critical beats in the "love your family" department, but Canada-born Teresa who saw her first October autumn in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, has the glitter of her mother's eyes and a pronounced version of her father's dimples. One might say we are mighty fond of her.

Born in '76, it is easy to mistake Teresa V. as being named after the Calcutta missionary. After all, her Mom and Dad were experimenting with a family ecumenical monastic lifestyle at the time. But her namesake is actually more mundane and closer to home. Her grandpa on Papa side, the runt in a family of nine, was closest to immediate older sister, Teresa, a compassionate lady, wife to a prominent dentist, and mother to a Vergara-size clan. One of Aunt Teresa's daughters finished her high school in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, as an exchange student. Her host sister Mary Lou is my wife and Teresa's Mom.

It is the "naming" and "love your family" process that trips our musing today.

Of the circle of our acquaintance, we know Nick Barker whose ancestry might come from chroniclers and community gathering announcers (barkers). Zhang Huanan has a name that means, "splendid boy," and his name might come from his physical features as well as his parents' hope for his career. He is studying to pilot cargo planes.

Liwayway, the aforementioned exchange student cousin, was named for the gleaming "sunrises at dawn." Kennichi our classmate was first-born boy to the Nishimura family. A population of Kims calms Korea's mornings. A revered sovereign of the old Kogoryo named a place called Kim (Jin in Zhongwen, as in Jin Yinhua, erstwhile of Saipan) as the birthplace of the royal bloodline. So every other *Hangeul saram* of our acquaintance is named Kim!

A rose by any other name is still a rose, says the poet. Teresa of Avila is revered in the RC tradition; might be where Agnes derived her religious appellation! We were not that presumptuous in calling second daughter Teresa. She was simply named after a loving and loveable aunt.

Holding Teresa at 2 with her Canadian passport, and mine from the Philippines, we presented ourselves to U.S. Immigration in Ho-

By JAIME R. VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.



lulu late '70s. Mama of Illinois with Uncle Sam's blue, along with Manila-born Kristina whose ease of travel was best served by the same printshop, lined up in the incoming citizens' portal. On our way from the Philippines to a summer research assembly in Chicago, we let the two girls visit their grannies who at the time resided in Pahala on the Big Island. We held the virtue of diversity but the multi-passport family was not easy on the immigration officers who are used to "fraudulent papers until proven authentic" mode.

Unable to produce a birth certificate to prove I was father to Teresa, I was presumed to be facilitating the entry of an unidentified alien; I was ordered to present myself to a federal officer in Chicago at a certain date. Fast forward six weeks later, and I walked out of the federal building adjudged as "having a low regard for the federal laws of the United States." I was expected to have the "alien in question" with me, and since she was frolicking on hardened lava fields on Hawaii with the grannies, I was released with admonition to pay more attention to rules the next time.

Teresa survived the divorce of her parents, though she thought at a tender age that she might have caused it. She survived Dad's method of teaching her how to swim by casting her *sans* life jackets into the waters of a Guam public pool. She learned to float. She survived the consequences of being separated on many occasions at a tender age from parents, as part of a global family religious order experiment that sent members to extended pedagogical assignments to great distances.

At the fragile age of teendom, she waded through the drug-infested environs of Chicago's northside, summers in Makati's privileged diplomatic community, and a year as an exchange student at a no-running water, no-electricity homestead in the South Island of New Zealand.

Teresa is a bedimpled survivor beaming beatifically as she takes her kids to catechism while Irish hubby is busy tunneling underground in California. A licensed custom's broker, our lassie by the California foothills is taking her namesake Mother Teresa to heart. To promote world peace, she is home loving her family!

Don Quixote types like Dad, accustomed to flailing sword at windmills, often missed a critical birthday or two, particularly that of a child who relishes the remembrances of the day. Teresa is not making that mistake. Might be too late in the game, but we remember hers today.

Obama is correcting the massive inequalities of the past

WASHINGTON—It was in the 1980 presidential contest

that Ronald Reagan first asked the question, “Are you better off than you were four years ago?”

It was a fitting introduction to the Age of Greed—don’t think about your fellow citizens or your country or the world, was part of the message—and it ushered in the most massive upward redistribution of income and wealth that America has ever seen.

Over the ensuing three decades the United States would become a much more unequal society, where the majority of people could no longer aspire to a middle-class existence.

The Reagan presidency itself was a disgrace in other respects too, making America infamous in the hemisphere for its sponsorship of genocide and torture in Central America and dictatorships elsewhere.

Now comes Mitt Romney in the Reagan tradition, hoping to win the presidency on the basis of America’s weak economy over the last four years. But there are a number of problems with his argument.

First, the obvious: President Obama didn’t create the economic mess that we are looking at—he inherited it from the previous government. Although both Democratic and Republican politicians contributed to the \$8 trillion housing bubble that caused the Great Recession, it cannot be blamed primarily on the Democrats and certainly not on Obama himself.

The question then is whether the Obama administration has done enough to turn things around in the last four years—and most important, whether Romney might do better.

I have criticized President Obama for not pursuing a much larger stimulus, as have other economists such as my colleague Dean Baker, and Nobel laureates Paul Krugman and Joseph Stiglitz.

The federal stimulus only replaced about one-fifth of the private spending lost in 2009-2010 due to the bursting of the housing bubble; and half of this stimulus was canceled out by the budget tightening of state and local governments.

However, the federal stimulus did create an estimated 3 million jobs that would not otherwise have been there. The administration’s rescue of the auto industry, also opposed by Romney and his party, probably saved an additional 1.5 million to 2.5 million jobs.

By **MARK WEISBROT**

Center for Economic and Policy Research

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So, if you think that Obama didn’t do enough in his first term, you would not want Romney for the next four years, because he and his party were opposed to the measures that actually did save millions of jobs and hundreds of billions of dollars of income for Americans.

In fact, the Congressional Republicans cut \$100 billion out of the federal stimulus package that would have gone to state and local governments

PRO

so that they would not have pushed so many people into the unemployment lines, including teachers and firefighters.

On the positive side, President Obama’s health-care reform—which Mitt Romney wants to repeal—helps tens of millions of Americans.

The most important provisions do not kick in until 2014, when 30 million additional Americans will have health insurance, and people who have pre-existing health problems will not be discriminated against in obtaining insurance. Some of the provisions have already taken effect, for example allowing parents to keep their children on their insurance policies up to age 26.

People might also want to take into account whether they will be better off four years from now if President Obama loses.

Perhaps most worrisome are Romney’s pledges to cut Social Security, the bedrock program that stands between most of our senior citizens and a life of poverty. He also wants to cut other important government programs in order to raise military spending by \$2 trillion over the next decade—while most of the country is really sick of our involvement in pointless wars.

These are not policies that will make Americans better off four years from now.

Only four in 10 say they are; the rest may deny Obama a second-term

WASHINGTON—Is the country better off than it was

four years ago? Are you and your family better off than you were four years ago? How you answer those questions may determine who wins the presidential election.

The pollsters at Quinnipiac recently asked likely voters if the country was better off today than it was four years ago. Four out of 10 said the United States was better off; but 45 percent said the country was worse off. And 15 percent said it was doing about the same, meaning 60 percent of respondents believe there’s been at best no progress after four years.

The same poll asked respondents if their families were better or worse off. While 25 percent said they were better off, 34 percent said they were worse off.

CBS and the New York Times also recently asked people if both the country and their families were better or worse off. Once

By **NICK SCHULZ**

American Enterprise Institute

Nick Schulz is the DeWitt Wallace fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. Readers may write to him at AEI, 1150 17th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.



bigger over four years; and it’s a hole that will be tough to get out of, given the enormous unfunded liabilities in the nation’s health and pension programs in the years ahead.

The unemployment rate four years ago, in October of 2008, was 6.5 percent. Four years later, it is 7.8 percent. At the same time, many more people today have simply dropped out of the labor force, too discouraged to look for work

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And while the economy has recovered somewhat from the Great Recession, for many people it hasn’t felt like a recovery. The recession officially

ended in June 2009, but since then median household incomes have declined over 4 percent, according to an analysis of Census Bureau data by Gordon Green and John Coder.

How much blame President Obama deserves for the current state of the economy is an interesting parlor game. His supporters say he inherited a mess—a weakening economy with a deepening financial crisis—and that he took many steps to make that awful situation better.

On the other hand, Obama’s critics argue that his stimulus did not stimulate very much; that his spending contributed significantly to the ballooning debt; that unemployment has for too long hovered around 8 percent, which is alarmingly high by American standards; that he focused on healthcare reform when job creation should have been the priority; and that the world—from Syria, to Libya, to Iran, to Russia, to North Korea—may well be more dangerous and hostile to the United States than it was when he took office.

During the 1980 election, candidate Ronald Reagan famously said to Americans, “it might be well if you would ask yourself, ‘are you better off than you were four years ago?’”

Americans at the time believed the nation was weaker at home and abroad and put the Gipper in office for the first of two terms. Thirty-two years later, on November 6, it will be interesting to see how Americans answer the same question.

Are Americans better off than they were four years ago?

again, respondents were more likely to say the country and their families were worse off.

Why would more people think the country is worse off? After all, as President Obama points out, he has brought home troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, Osama bin Laden is dead, and the nation has emerged from the Great Recession.

But other yardsticks tell a less fortunate tale. The nation is significantly more indebted than it was just four years ago, after several years of running trillion dollar budget deficits. This means an already big fiscal hole became much

The spiraling state of welfare spending

When the news from Washington contains words such as “million,” “billion” and “trillion,” it’s all too easy for our eyes to glaze over. Numbers that big aren’t easy to grasp. But in an era when the federal government continues to spend as if the party will never end, it’s essential to try.

Here’s one way to get a handle on those words, courtesy of Jim Bohannon, the popular radio host. He recently told me how to put them in perspective.

Take a single human hair, he said. A million of them laid side by side would stretch the length of an entire football field, end zone included.

A billion human hairs? They’d stretch 63 miles. And a trillion? 63,000 miles. That’s more than twice the circumference of the entire earth. It’s 21 trips from New York City to Los Angeles. In short, it’s a huge number.

Now you have some perspective for the latest news in annual welfare spending: It’s approaching the \$1 trillion mark. We’re talking about more than 80 means-tested programs, comprising a maze of forms, bureaucrats and regulations—and, all total, they’re close to hitting the magic number.

That’s what the non-partisan Congressional Research Service recently reported. Its findings echo what welfare expert Robert Rector of The Heritage Foundation has been saying. According to Rector, roughly 100 million people—one-third of the U.S. population—receive aid from at least one means-tested welfare program each month. Average benefits come to around \$9,000 per recipient.

The phrase “means-tested” refers, of course, to a recipient’s means. He or she must demonstrate that his or her income falls below a certain defined poverty level to get aid in the first place. But then, as Rector has pointed out before, the aid is a hand-out, not a hand-up. The main purpose of the 1996 welfare reform was to add a work requirement to the equation: If recipients were required to work (or at least be looking for work), welfare wouldn’t become a way of life.

By the beginning of 2012, however, only four federal welfare programs had work requirements. And thanks to the Obama administration, it’s now down to two. The results were predictable: more people on welfare. For example, in 2009 work requirements were suspended for food stamps. Since then, the number of people on food stamps has doubled.

But wait, some may ask, how does this compare to what we spend on other parts of the budget. Surely this pales compared to what we spend on defense, right? Actually, it doesn’t. Just the opposite. In 1993, welfare spending surpassed what we spend on defense for the first time since the Great Depression. It’s been climbing ever since.

Under the president’s spending plans, by 2022 we’ll be spending \$2.33 on welfare for every \$1 we spend on defense. (The ratio is currently \$1.33 to \$1.) Overall, President Obama plans to spend \$12.7 trillion on means-tested welfare over the next decade.

The combined cost of Social Security and Medicare, at \$1.2 trillion, is only slightly greater than the cost of means-tested welfare. This is striking because everyone knows that Social Security and Medicare cost a lot, but the similar cost of means-tested welfare is

By **ED FEULNER**

The Heritage Foundation

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generally hidden from public view.






Unsustainable debt is bad news, but we have to remember that this isn’t simply about dollars and cents. It’s about people. After the 1996 reform, the number of welfare recipients in the primary welfare program (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) dropped by 50 percent as more people got jobs and learned to take care of themselves. Earnings and employment rose. Child poverty went down. Unfortunately, only one of 80 welfare programs was reformed, and now the Obama administration is abandoning that reform. Yet this is obviously the model we should be expanding throughout the system—not eliminating.

Whoever wins the presidential race in November needs to take a hard look at the spiraling state of welfare spending. Or it won’t be long before we need to calculate how far a quadrillion human hairs, laid side by side, would stretch.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 81

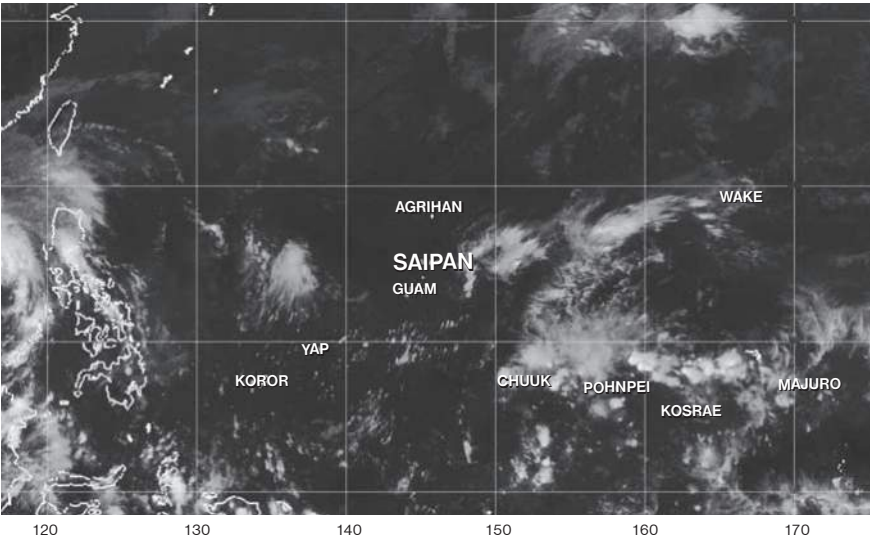
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 55
Beijing	Windy	▲ 74 ▼ 41
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 83 ▼ 78
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 73
London	Windy	▲ 47 ▼ 32
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 44
Miami	Rain	▲ 79 ▼ 70
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 53
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 62
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 35
Pusan	Rain	▲ 70 ▼ 57
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲ 68 ▼ 58
Salem	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 48
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 58
Seoul	Rain	▲ 65 ▼ 54
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 60
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 59

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
1:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
6:49 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough west of the Marianas and north of Yap runs from 14N138E to 16N137E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located within 90 miles of the trough axis. An old shear line meanders westward from south of Midway through 18N180 to east of the Marianas at 15N150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near this boundary east of Saipan within 50 miles of a line from 15N150E to 18N161E. Scattered showers are also found around this boundary west of Wake Island within 100 miles of a line from 21N163E to 15N168E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Chuuk and Pohnpei between 7N and 12N from 152E to 158E. A surface trough runs northeastward from south of Kosrae at 4N164E to end northeast of Majuro at 9N172E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 250 miles north of the trough axis including Kwajalein.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:12 AM	5:50 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	5:50 PM
Monday	6:12 AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	6:12 AM	5:49 PM
Wednesday	6:13 AM	5:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:00 PM	3:48 AM
Sunday	4:40 PM	4:37 AM
Monday	5:20 PM	5:27 AM
Tuesday	6:03 PM	6:16 AM
Wednesday	6:47 PM	7:06 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCT. 27, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)				VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week	VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	UAI90/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	UAI90/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
				PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM				
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:10pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	11:25pm	7:55am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 17:50	18:20	Daily		Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 10:20	10:45	Daily		FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC			
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro Wednesday:6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991			
San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass			
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday:			
PROTESTANT			
8:30am-12pm Amen Church Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net			
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
Church 360 Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building). Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116 Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm			
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions			
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm			
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
Living Hope Church of the Nazarene Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142			
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd. Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661			
Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Sunday worship 8:30am			
Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
First Baptist Church Koblerville Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
Victorious Christian Church (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 27, 1999

Govt prepares list of projects for \$30M loan
The government is expected to receive within the next few weeks the initial batch of the \$30 million loan it has secured from Bank of Guam to finance various infrastructure projects on the island, officials said yesterday. Mike Sablan, special advisor for finance and budget, and Rep. Karl T. Reyes, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, have begun mapping out a plan on how to tap the forthcoming funds as requested by bank officials. “We are working very closely with the Legislature on a drawdown schedule,” Sablan told reporters. This plan will include a list of priority projects as well as the amount and release schedule of money necessary to start construction.

Garment managers seek apology from DPS chief
The association of resident managers of the island’s garment manufacturing firms has demanded a retraction from Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram who claimed that 99 percent of women engaged in illegal sex trade on Saipan are garment factory workers. In a letter to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, some 25 resident managers of the association expressed concern over “thoughtless and offensive comments” made by Ingram which they said slandered the industry’s local and guest workers. While Ingram has sent a letter of apology to SGMA executive director Richard Pierce, “it did little more except to create publicity.”

Oct. 27, 2000

Govt, CUC still at loggerheads over unpaid bills
More than a month since opening talks to hammer out a deal on the government’s mounting utility debt, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Department of Finance have yet to reach settlement on disputed billings. But CUC Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero expressed optimism that an agreement could be forged soon amid efforts by both parties to reconcile the records. “We’re still trying to work out our differences [with] the ones they are disputing,” he told in an interview. Utility officials have acknowledged the “inaccuracies,” although they have not specified the questionable billings.

NMHC eyes completion of Koblerville project in Feb.
The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation is confident all 45 home units that are now being erected in Koblerville Village will be ready for occupancy by February 2001, a little over a year since construction started in late 1999. Housing Manager Diana Crisostimo disclosed majority of the units have already been pre-qualified to interested families and that NMHC expects to officially award the units soon after construction work is completed early next year. “Construction is progressing very well and we have already pre-qualified more than half of the applicants who have submitted application for the units. We have received over 50 applications but not everybody are eligible or qualified,” she pointed out.

Oct. 27, 2002

Heinz appeals for approval of HB 13-126
House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider appealed to the administration to give House Bill 13-126 a chance, following efforts by the Executive Branch to resolve issues surrounding Public Law 13-1, or the measure defining government positions exempt from civil service. HB 13-126, legislation crafted to address loopholes in PL 13-1, has passed both the House and the Senate without amendments. The administration, however, has yet to act on the measure. “Until it’s signed into law and have it applied, and we see what obstacles HB 13-26 generates, we can only argue on the basis of theoretical application of 126,” the Speaker said Friday.

EPA requests proposal for brownfields grant awards
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting proposals for national brownfields assessment, revolving loan fund and cleanup grants. These grants are part of the new Small Business Liability Relief and brownfields Revitalization Act signed by President Bush in January 2002 to help states and communities around the country clean up and revitalize Brownfield sites. As part of his FY2003 budget request, the President has called for a doubling of money for the brownfields program to \$200 million. Brownfields are abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

Maharlika

Manila office nixes RNV for renewal of OWWA memberships

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration members in the CNMI will no longer be able to renew their membership on Saipan once the Philippine Consulate General closes down, following OWWA's rejection of a request to authorize RNV Foreign Exchange as a re-

mittance processing center.

Welfare officer Julia F. Fabian said in an interview that she recently received verbal notification from their Manila office, saying that the request is not doable since renewal of OWWA membership requires personal appearance of the member.

RNV Foreign Exchange, a money remittance business on

Saipan, was only recommended to accept membership renewal fees once the consulate shuts down after Oct. 31.

Additionally, the OWWA main office also turned down the recommendation to have RNV Foreign Exchange become an accredited remittance center for the sponsors of the agency's *Tuloy-Aral* (continuing education) program.

A Susupe resident who asked not to be named said yesterday that OWWA's decision not to provide a processing center where Filipino workers can renew their memberships is disadvantageous especially for those who have been members for decades.

"With the economic downturn [on] the islands, our OWWA memberships serve as our only in-

surance," said the father of four.

But Fabian said she plans to appeal once again this decision by discussing the situation in the CNMI with the officials at the OWWA office when they return to Manila on Nov. 2.

"We can brainstorm on what kind of setup would be best to allow OWWA members here to continue their memberships.

There is really a demand for it based on the many Filipino workers I've talked to," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Likewise, she plans to discuss in detail the possibility of continuing the issuance of the overseas employment certificate or OEC to Filipino workers as well as the *Tuloy-Aral* sponsorship beyond the consulate's closure.

Umbrella group notes drop in membership rolls

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization, the network of Filipino organizations in the CNMI, has seen a steady decline in its membership over the last few years.

The group's president, Bong Malasarte, said yesterday that UFO, which used to have about 30 member organizations, only has about 20 active groups at present.

Malasarte noted that some of the active groups also saw a drop in the number of active members owing to the decrease

in the population of Filipinos in the Commonwealth, caused by the economic downturn and the federalization of immigration on the islands.

"The population decrease within the Filipino community is something beyond our control," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "What we can do is make the most out of it and encourage continued participation among our members."

Malasarte pointed out that non-active member organizations within UFO are not immediately removed from the

roster.

"Once we observe the non-activity of a member group, what UFO does is we look into the matter by conducting our investigation, then we take it from there," he explained.

Member groups that are unable to pay their annual dues are also grounds for removal from the umbrella organization.

Malasarte said only the active groups can participate in the annual election of officers set for Nov. 24.

According to Malasarte, only five representatives from each

member organization will be allowed to participate in UFO's electoral process.

"We are optimistic that each member organization will cast their votes to elect the new set of officers that will lead the Filipino community of the Northern Marianas," he said.

The president earlier said that next month's election will coincide with the group's Thanksgiving celebration.

UFO is expected to culminate its 2012 activities with the annual Christmas event dubbed *Paskong Pinoy*.

Nation hails new cardinal

By PHILIP C. TUBEZA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Socrates Villegas said he and other Filipino prelates—Archbishop Jose Palma and Archbishop Romulo Valles—waited outside the Vatican synod hall after hearing the news that Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle had been named cardinal.

"When I hugged him, he cried on my shoulders. Tears of joy but also tears of fear! Every grace is also a responsibility, he told me later. We pray with joy now. Let us pray for Cardinal Tagle on the months and years ahead. Rejoice dear Philippines! One of our sons is now a cardinal!" Villegas said in a statement released in Manila.

Clerics and lay leaders echoed the same joy and fear that Villegas expressed following the surprise announcement by Pope Benedict XVI that the 55-year-old Tagle would be elevated to cardinal at the consistory on Nov. 24 in the Vatican.

Tagle is scheduled to return to Manila on Nov. 1. He will celebrate Mass on Nov. 3 in Paco, Manila, to launch the "Year of Faith" in his archdiocese.

"We are like John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness," said Tagle in an interview with Vatican Radio yesterday, a day after Benedict's announcement that he had joined the ranks of cardinals.

"You're not even sure if people will give you a fair hearing," said Tagle, who has been described as a "golden child," a rising "star," and a potential papal contender.

"You may be saying the right things but people will not listen to you if the manner by which you communicate reminds them of a triumphalistic know-it-all type of institution," said Tagle, who became head of the Manila archdiocese upon the retirement a year ago of Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales.

Terrified of task's magnitude

"I would like to thank the Holy Father for his trust and confidence not only in me but in the Church in Manila and in the Philippines. I take this

not only as a gift but also as a call for the Church in the Philippines to take seriously our mission specially in Asia," he said.

"I am also consoled by the assurances of prayer and support from so many people. But I am terrified by the magnitude of the task at hand," Tagle said in his official statement issued from Rome, where he is attending the monthly synod of bishops on new evangelization.

"It requires a further broadening of the horizon, a careful study of worldwide developments in society and the Church and an intensification of the mission of the Archdiocese of Manila and the Church in the Philippines, even in different parts of the world, especially in Asia."

God must love Filipinos

Henrietta de Villa, a former ambassador to the Vatican, said: "I'm ecstatic. God must really love the Filipinos. Only last Sunday, the gift of a new saint, St. Pedro Calungsod, an example of faithfulness and selfless love. Now, a new cardinal for the Philippines, one who follows the Lord, is humble of heart, and teaches with authority because he lives what he preaches."

"He will have a lot of time to prove himself," said retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz. "That's 20 years for him to be able to work and serve the Church. He is a very good theologian, very kind and holy."

Cruz noted Tagle's service under Benedict when the pontiff, as then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, headed the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith. He said it was possible that Tagle would be appointed to head that body, previously known as the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition. "That's a higher position," he said.

Activist "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes, a classmate of Tagle at the Jesuit-run San Jose Seminary, said he knew the archbishop was going to "climb high in the ecclesiastical ladder."



EID AL-ADHA

Filipino Muslims attend a prayer at the Blue Mosque in Taguig city, east of Manila, Philippines to commemorate an Islamic festival known as Eid al-Adha Friday Oct. 26, 2012. Muslims all over the world commemorate the Eid al-Adha or the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael by slaughtering goats and cows as a form of sacrifice and distribute the meat mostly to the poor.

Hairshow Saipan to introduce latest in hair styling

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Filipino hairstylists will have the chance to improve their skills with the upcoming 1st Hairshow Saipan 2012.

The event is slated for Sunday, Oct. 28, from 8am to 4pm at the Aliviera Perfect Venue along Middle Road in Garapan and is organized by Sharmaine Casquero, Venus Grinio, and Mar Madreo.

Casquero said yesterday that the event will feature the latest trends and techniques from professional hairdressers and beauticians of Z.One Concept Educa-

tor, a company founded in 1999 by Ivano Panzeri and makes fine quality hair color, retexturizing and styling products.

Sunday's trainers are Mercy Tiong, Jenny Oh, and Michelle Seo, who all received their hairstyling training from New York, U.S.A. and Milan, Italy.

"This event is the first in the history of Saipan," Casquero told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Casquero, the event organizers were inspired to fly in these highly skilled hairstylists to Saipan to enhance the skills of beauticians on island, most of whom are Filipinos.

Casquero said the whole-day event, which took them two months to organize, would be

timely since the visiting trainers recently completed another off-island training that they can share to local hairdressers.

She said attendees will learn about new haircut styles, proper mixing of hair color, and how to carry yourself as a hairstylist, among other things.

"We want our fellow hairstylists to improve their skills and, at the same time, help them become aware of the latest fashion and trends in the world of hairstyling around the world," added Casquero.

The entire community, including non-stylists, are invited to attend the event entirely or only for half-day.

Tickets cost \$100 per person for those who plan to attend the event from 8am to 4pm, while tickets for a half-day segment are at \$50 each. These tickets are available at ASKS Salon, Serenity Salon & Spa, and Viralicci Beauty Salon & Hair Studio.

Casquero said a number of individuals have already bought tickets, including Chinese hairstylists on island.

Those who complete the training will be given a certificate that local hairstylists can use for their employment petitions.

For more information, call Casquero at 233-2643, Venus Grinio at 233-6688 or Mar Madreo at 233-4095.

Philippines rolls out welcome mat for US warship

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABOARD THE USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (AP)—A U.S. Navy aircraft carrier strike force's visit to Manila is the latest show of American military might partly aimed at countering China's grip in Asia. But it also provides hundreds of Filipino American sailors a chance to briefly soak in the warm embrace of a second home.

U.S. sailor Ryan Regondola, who was born in the southern Philippine city of Davao, said Thursday that the nuclear-powered USS George Washington's five-day visit underscores America's enduring friendship with the Philippines. He's also excited that the mission means a brief reunion with his Filipino dad, as well as Manila street delicacies including balut—boiled duck egg loved by many for its unique taste, but dreaded by others because of the half-formed, feathery embryo that pops out as an eater munches.

"I missed out a lot, so I'm catching up," Regondola told The Associated Press on board the hulking warship anchored at Manila Bay. "It feels great to be back home."

The Philippines has reached out to the United States, a longtime defense treaty ally, for help in modernizing its acutely outdated fleet of warships and planes and in training its troops amid renewed entanglement in long-running territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea.

Manila's desire to bolster its external defense and security cover has dovetailed with America's intention to pivot away from years of heavy military engagement in the Middle East to Asia, where it has been trying to foster closer economic and military alliances with countries such as the Philippines partly as a counterweight to China's rising clout.

In a highly symbolic gesture in May last year, Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, accompanied by senior members of his Cabinet and military chief of staff, was flown to the USS Carl Vinson to welcome the American warship as it traveled in the South China Sea toward the Philippines for a Manila visit.

The 97,000-ton carrier had just journeyed from a historic mission in the North Arabian Sea, where it had received the Navy SEALs team that carried the body of Osama bin Laden, who was killed days earlier in a highly secretive U.S. commando assault in Pakistan.

Since then, there has been an increasing tempo of high-profile port calls and visits by U.S. warships, submarines and aircraft, including the George Washington, which visited in 2010 and steamed back into Manila Bay on Wednesday for small military exercises and civic projects and to let loose thousands of its crew for a few days of liberty in the



U.S. sailors of Filipino descent Marvin Balbuena, left, Ryan Regondola, center, and Spencer Rhoades pose in front of a US Navy FA-18 fighter jet and a giant Philippine flag as they are presented for the media during a tour of the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS George Washington, off Manila Bay in Manila, Philippines, Thursday Oct. 25, 2012. Inset, journalists take photos of the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS George Washington off Manila Bay in Manila.

AP

bustling Philippine capital.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim welcomed Capt. Gregory Fenton, the commanding officer of the George Washington, which will host a reception for hundreds of Filipino dignitaries and military officials.

About 800 of the carrier's 5,500-strong force were either born in the Philippines or are of Filipino descent, according to Fenton.

Navy officer Dioscoro Crucillo had longed wanted to visit his sisters in the Philippines, but managed to return only this week after not seeing them for 21 years. He said he wanted his homecoming to show that he hasn't changed, that he's still "a native son, proud of both worlds."

Another Navy man aboard the George Washington, 19-year-old Spencer Rhoades, is the son of a Filipino woman and an American rail engineer.

His parents brought him to the poor central Philippine province of Samar, where his mother is from, when he was 5 years old, and he did not return to the country until this week. Rhoades said he was aware of the geo-political issues surrounding the American presence in Asia but would rather simply enjoy getting back to his roots for now.

"I see a lot of it on the news, in the newspapers, and it's hard not to think about it," Rhoades said. "When I come here, it's just to relax, get off work a little bit and just kick my feet up ... I get to see where my mom is from and see the culture."

From the George Washington, passenger boats ferry hundreds of American sailors in casual clothes to the Mall of Asia, one of Asia's largest shopping centers, where some bars blared loud disco music on a rainy noontime Thursday to attract the visitors. Smiling mall workers handed umbrellas to the large throng of sailors.

Such U.S. military presence in the region has in the past annoyed China, which has warned the United States not to intervene in territorial disputes Beijing says should be dealt with one-on-one by Asian claimants.

Amid the murky situation, Washington has walked a tightrope by providing military support to allies like the Philippines and declaring that it will help ensure freedom of navigation in disputed South China Sea areas, while also saying it does not take sides in the disputes to avoid being drawn into the wrangling.

"We are firmly committed to helping support the nations that are involved in the disputes, but ideally we'd like to see them sort out their disputes via diplomatic channels," Fenton told reporters.

"We're very sensitive to the areas that are under disputes," he said. "We do make a very conscious effort to stay away from those areas."

US warship rescues Filipino fishermen from sinking

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A U.S. Navy warship rescued five Filipino fishermen Wednesday after helicopter pilots spotted them flashing a lighter in the middle of the night while standing on the roof of their sinking boat, officials said.

A Navy helicopter discovered the fishermen in international waters just after midnight, hours after the fishing boat started taking on water, said Tina Malone, a U.S. Embassy spokeswoman in Manila.

The guided-missile destroyer

USS McCampbell, which was closest to the scene, launched two boats to rescue them.

Malone said the fishermen were given a checkup and found to be in good health. They will be brought ashore when the USS McCampbell arrives in Manila on Wednesday as part of a five-day goodwill visit by the USS George Washington aircraft carrier strike group.

The carrier and accompanying warships are patrolling the South China Sea in a show of American power in

waters where China has been squabbling with neighbors such as Vietnam and the Philippines over who has the control of a string of tiny islands.

The U.S. says it wants to keep the strategic waters, believed to be rich in gas and oil deposits, open to international navigation and has urged China and other claimants to settle territorial disputes peacefully. Washington also has a defense treaty with the Philippines and has been helping to modernize the poorly equipped Philippine navy to defend Manila's claims.

Philippines stops scam that hit scrap metal buyers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police said they have stopped a 10-year scam in which an international syndicate shipped junk instead of scrap metal for which the buyers paid millions.

The syndicate operating from the Philippines is headed by two Singaporeans and a Briton based in Hong Kong, said Director Samuel Pagdilao of the national police investigation and detection group.

Other members of the syndicate include Filipinos, Taiwanese and Chinese,

he said. The Philippines will seek Interpol help to catch the suspects in other countries once charges are filed in court.

He said the government has frozen 150 personal and corporate accounts linked to the syndicate in 20 banks. Court warrants are needed to open the accounts to determine how much they contain, a process that can take time if the account holders object.

The syndicate used shell companies with fictitious addresses and telephone numbers as well as legitimate companies to launder their money, Pagdilao said.

The scam involved luring international victims through online advertisements for scrap metal, mostly copper wire. The buyers were taken to a warehouse and shown the goods sealed in a container for shipment. After the buyers left the country, the goods were unloaded and replaced with junk such as rocks and garbage without breaking the container's seal.

Pagdilao said one Chinese victim last year paid more than \$2.4 million for 346 tons of scrap metal but received a shipment of concrete debris.

6 dead, 9 missing in tropical storm in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A tropical storm has left six people dead and nine missing in the Philippines and is heading toward Vietnam and southern China.

Civil Defense chief Benito Ramos says the fatalities include an 88-year-old woman who died of hypothermia and a 77-year-old man hit by a falling tree, both in the central Philippines.

More than 30,000 people stranded at seaports and airports were ex-

pected to resume their journeys after storm warnings were lifted Friday and floodwaters began subsiding.

The Philippine weather bureau says Tropical Storm Son-Tinh entered the country early Wednesday. It was located about 440 kilometers (275 miles) west of northern Zambales province midday Friday, moving at 22 kilometers (14 miles) per hour. It had sustained winds of 75 kph (47 mph) and maximum winds of 90 kph (56 mph).

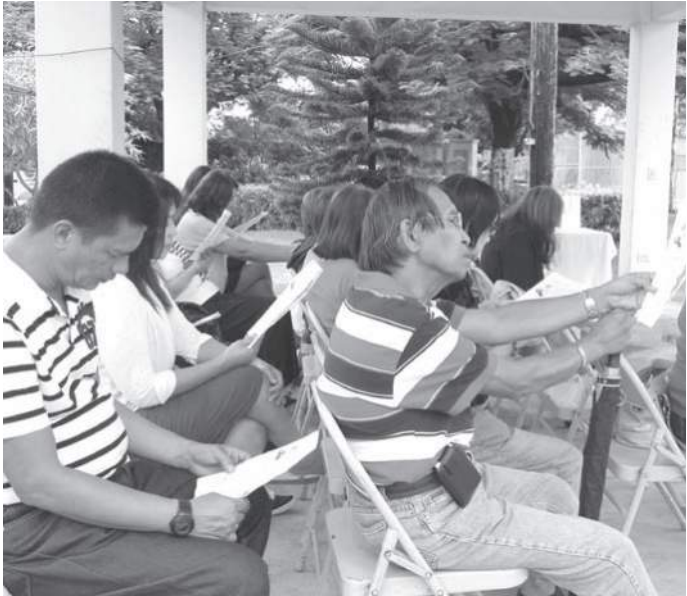
Samu't Sari



ROSARY RALLY

Guam celebrates the 95th anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima on Oct. 13, 2012, at the Tamuning Community Park, Tamuning, Guam. Consul General Bayani Mangibin of the Philippine Consulate General, sixth from left, joins Dr. Celia Lamkin, at right side of Mangibin, rosary rally captain; Dr. Meilou Milligan, at left side of Mangibin, vice president of the Filipino Community of Guam; and members of the Filipino community in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Filipino community and other Guam residents participate in a rosary rally on Oct. 13, 2012, at the Tamuning Community Park, Tamuning, Guam, to celebrate the 95th anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima.



PIPER MEETING

Conference presenter Alison Johnson, standing in front, discusses with over 140 participants the importance of complying with grants standards and requirements during a grants management workshop at the opening of the weeklong historic 2012 Pacific Islands Preparedness and Emergency Response (PIPER) regional meeting at Kanoa Resort Saipan on Monday.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Visiting Japanese students from Yokosuka Gakuin High School perform a special number Thursday during the school's cultural exchange visit at Grace Christian Academy.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 18th birthday going out to Farah Jane Chan, who is celebrating her special day on Oct. 28, 2012! Now that your 18, may every glowing candle on your cake be a wish that comes true. Always follow your dream and finish your studies! Love lots from your Chan and Hernandez families!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy 4th birthday to Joaquin Ian "Keeno" Cruzana, who celebrated his special day last Oct. 22, 2012. Stay funny as you are as always and stay huggable, chubby! Love lots from your Chan and Hernandez families!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Business

US economy likely grew slowly last quarter

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government's snapshot Friday of the U.S. economy's growth will be its last before Americans choose a president in 11 days.

It probably won't sway many undecided voters.

The first of three estimates of growth for the July-September quarter will likely sketch a picture that's been familiar all year: The economy is growing at a tepid rate, slowed by high unemployment, corporate anxiety over an unresolved budget crisis and a global economic slowdown.

Economists' consensus forecast is that the government will estimate that the economy grew at an annual rate of 1.8 percent last quarter. That would exceed the 1.3 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter. But it would be too slight to signal robust job creation, which is what the economy needs most.

And it would give Mitt Romney's team evidence to argue that the economy is growing at an unacceptably subpar pace.

"We are stuck in this half-speed growth mode," said David Wyss, an economics professor at Brown University.

The government's report covers gross domestic product. GDP measures the nation's total output of goods and services—from restaurant meals and haircuts to airplanes, ap-



This Oct. 25, 2012 photo shows appliances on display at Orville's Home Appliances store in Amherst, N.Y. The government's snapshot Friday, Oct. 26, 2012, of the U.S. economy's growth will be its last before Americans choose a president in 11 days.

pliances and highways.

Economists think GDP growth in the final three months of 2012 could resemble the preceding three quarters, with the economy expanding at an annual rate of around 1.8 percent. If that estimate proves accurate,

growth for the entire year would equal 1.7 percent, even slower than the 1.8 percent growth for 2011.

Since the recovery from the Great Recession began in June 2009, the U.S. economy has grown at the slowest rate of any

recovery in the post-World War II period. And economists think growth will remain sluggish at least through the first half of 2013. Some analysts believe the economy will start to pick up in the second half of next year.

By then, they think the tax

and spending confrontations that have brought gridlock to Washington should be resolved. Employers that say they won't hire or expand much until federal tax and regulatory uncertainties are resolved could start to spend more.

Some economists say the Federal Reserve's continued efforts to boost the economy by lowering long-term interest rates will help generate more borrowing and spending by consumers and businesses.

"By the time we get into the second half of 2013, the Fed's efforts to kick the economy into overdrive should be having an impact, and there should be some sort of resolution of Washington's budget issues," said Brian Bethune, an economics professor at Gordon College in Massachusetts.

Still, a panel of 40 top forecasters with the National Association for Business Economics isn't expecting significant improvement over the next two years. Last week, they predicted GDP growth of just 2.2 percent in 2013.

One problem is that companies are holding off on purchases of computers, industrial equipment and other long-lasting manufactured goods. Corporate spending has been lackluster for four straight months.

Corporate investment helped the U.S. economy emerge from the Great Recession. But businesses have grown more cautious since spring, in part because customer demand has remained modest and exports have declined as the global economy has slowed.

Apple warns of holiday earnings drop

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple has a new iPhone, two new iPads and three new PCs as it heads into the holiday quarter, the biggest selling season of the year. But, paradoxically, it expects these new gadgets to bring down its profits compared to last year.

The reason: the new gadgets are expensive to make, Apple executives said Thursday, and the company is not interested in cutting corners for the sake of short-term returns.

On top of the holiday-quarter warning, the company reported earnings for its just-ended quarter that missed Wall Street's expectations for the second quarter in a row—something that hasn't happened in more than a decade.

In part, the issues facing Apple are a normal consequence of having so many new products, said Chief Fi-

nancial Officer Peter Oppenheimer. When a production line is new, it costs more to run and the components are more expensive.

"The difference this time is the sheer number of products we're introducing at a short time," Oppenheimer told analysts on a call Thursday.

But Oppenheimer also singled out the iPad Mini, the new, smaller version of the iPad the company unveiled Tuesday. It starts at \$329, well above the \$199 competitors charge for similar products. Apple's price is "aggressive," with a margin well below its other products, Oppenheimer said.

"When we set out to build the iPad Mini, we didn't set out to build a small, cheap tablet, we set out to build a smaller iPad that offered the full iPad experience" Oppenheimer said.

Presidential election hits \$2B fundraising mark

WASHINGTON (AP)—The 2012 presidential campaign passed the \$2 billion mark in fundraising Thursday, fueled by an outpouring of cash from both ordinary citizens and the wealthiest Americans hoping to influence the selection of the country's next leader.

The eye-popping figure puts the election on track to be the costliest in modern U.S. history. It comes amid a campaign finance system vastly altered by the proliferation of outside groups and "super" political

committees that are bankrolling a barrage of TV ads in battleground states.

President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney have brought in about \$1.7 billion so far this election, according to fundraising reports submitted Thursday night.

Added to that: nearly \$300 million in donations involving super PACs since early 2011, as well as tens of millions more in donations to nonprofit groups that run election-related ads but don't have to disclose their donors.

Obama, the Democratic Party and related fundraising committees raised a combined \$88.8 million for the first 15 days of October, reports showed, while Romney's fundraising apparatus reaped \$111.8 million during the same period.

The largest of those were two pro-Romney groups. American Crossroads, a Republican-leaning super PAC with ties to former President George W. Bush's longtime political counselor Karl Rove, reported raising at least \$79.6 million through Oct. 15.

Restore Our Future, founded by former Romney aides, reported pulling in \$130.6 million so far. And Priorities USA, a pro-Obama group founded by two former aides to the president, reported \$62.8 million in contributions.

Added to that: nearly \$300 million in donations involving super PACs since early 2011, as well as tens of millions more in donations to nonprofit groups—often affiliated with super PACs—that run election-related ads but don't have to disclose their donors.

Japan approves new stimulus for ailing economy

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Cabinet approved a 423 billion yen (\$5.3 billion) economic stimulus package on Friday, moving to fend off recession amid signs the recovery in the world's third biggest economy is faltering.

The emergency spending package, which is double the

size originally expected, is also meant to help make up for lost momentum from reconstruction in the region devastated by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's leeway to boost spending is limited by a legislative standoff preventing issuance of

deficit-covering bonds. Noda has ordered the government to draft further measures to boost growth by next month.

Friday's decision coincided with news of a 0.1 percent fall in the consumer price index in September, adding to pressure on the central bank to ease policies to help fight deflation, or

falling prices, which can hinder economic growth.

National policy minister Seiji Maehara has been among the most vocal officials pushing the Bank of Japan to do more to boost growth, sitting on central bank board meetings to emphasize the government's desire for more action.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,103.68	1,412.97	2,986.12
+26.34	+4.22	+4.42
+0.20%	+0.30%	+0.15%

EXCHANGE RATES

n U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9647	Indian Rupee	53.7057	Singapore Dollar	1.2208
	British Pound	0.6216	Indonesian Rupiah	9,643.2	South Korean Won	1,100.9
	Canadian Dollar	0.9932	Japanese Yen	80.0641	Swiss Franc	0.9323
	Chinese Yuan	6.2913	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0483	Taiwan Dollar	29.2740
	Euro	0.7707	New Zealand Dollar	1.2165	Thailand Baht	30.7409

Nation

Obama pressures Romney to break his Mourdock ties

CINCINNATI (AP)—President Barack Obama, seeking to shore up support among women, intensified his pressure Thursday on Mitt Romney to break any ties with a Republican Senate candidate who said that if a woman becomes pregnant from rape it is “something God intended.” Romney ignored the emotional social issue, holding to an optimistic campaign tone as he fought for victory in crucial Ohio.

Obama, wrapping up a 40-hour battleground state blitz, also headed to his hometown of

Chicago and cast his ballot 12 days before Election Day. The stopover was more than a photo opportunity—it was a high-profile attempt to boost turnout in early voting, a centerpiece of Obama’s strategy.

The 2012 presidential contest was expected to cross the \$2 billion fundraising mark Thursday, putting the election on track to be the costliest in history. It’s being fueled by a campaign finance system vastly altered by the proliferation of “super” political action committees that are bankrolling

TV ads in closely contested states.

Back on the campaign trail, the president made repeated, though indirect, references to Indiana Republican Richard Mourdock’s controversial comment on rape and pregnancy.

“We’ve seen again this week, I don’t think any male politicians should be making health care decisions for women,” Obama told a crowd of about 15,000 on an unseasonably warm fall day in Richmond, Va. The president’s aides pressed further, using a web video to highlight

Romney’s endorsement of Mourdock and to accuse the GOP nominee of kowtowing to his party’s extreme elements.

Romney, who appears in a television advertisement declaring his support for Mourdock, brushed aside questions on the matter from reporters throughout the day. He centered his efforts instead on turning his campaign’s claims of momentum into a more practical—and ultimately necessary—roadmap to winning the required 270 Electoral College votes. Ohio is

crucial to that effort.

“This election is not about me,” Romney told a 3,000-person crowd at a southern Ohio manufacturing company. “It’s not about the Republican Party. It’s about America. And it’s about your family.”

Romney has disavowed

Mourdock’s comments, but his campaign says he continues to support the Indiana Republican’s Senate candidacy.

Less than two weeks from Election Day, both candidates feverishly campaigned across the country in an exceedingly close race.

Panetta: US lacked early info on Benghazi attack

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. military did not quickly intervene during the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Libya last month because military leaders did not have adequate intelligence information and felt they should not put American forces at risk, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Thursday.

In his most extensive comments to date on the unfolding controversy surrounding the attack in Benghazi, Panetta said U.S. forces were on heightened alert because of the anniversary of 9/11 and prepared to respond. But, he said, the attack happened over a few hours and was over before the U.S. had the chance to know what was really occurring.

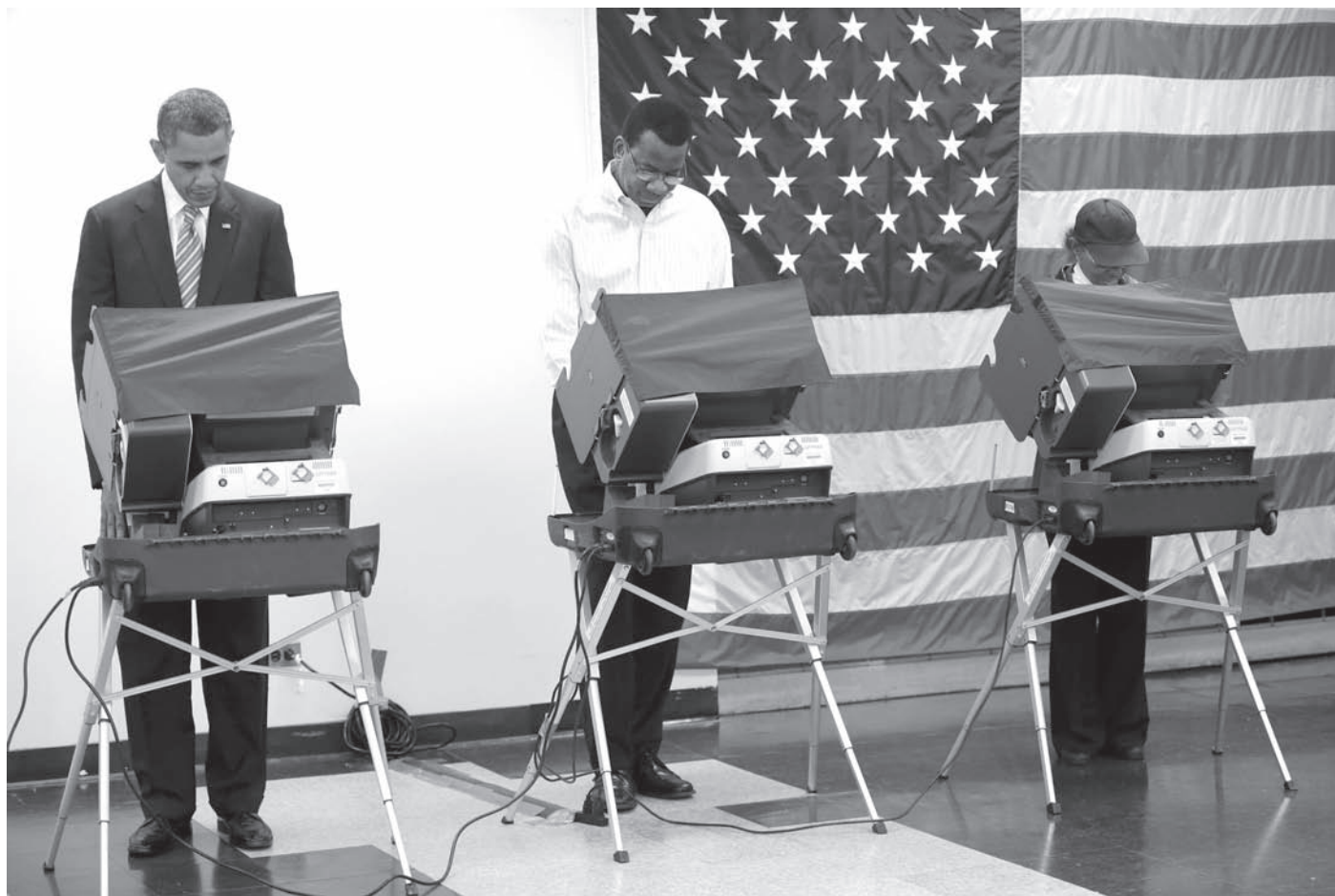
“(The) basic principle is that you don’t deploy forces into harm’s way without knowing what’s going on; without having some real-time information about what’s taking place,” Panetta told Pentagon reporters. “And as a result of not having that kind of information, the commander who was on the ground in that area, Gen. Ham,

Gen. Dempsey and I felt very strongly that we could not put forces at risk in that situation.”

Panetta was referring to Gen. Carter Ham, the head of U.S. Africa Command, and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In a letter to President Barack Obama on Thursday, House Speaker John Boehner questioned whether the White House considered military options during or immediately after the attack, and he questioned what the president knew about the security threats in the country. He said that the national debate over the incident shows that Americans are concerned and frustrated about the administration’s response to the attack.

“Can you explain what options were presented to you or your staff, and why it appears assets were not allowed to be pre-positioned, let alone utilized? If these reports are accurate, the artificial constraint on the range of options at your disposal would be deeply troubling,” Boehner, R-Ohio, wrote.



President Barack Obama, left, casts his vote during early voting in the 2012 election Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012, in Chicago, at the Martin Luther King Community Center.

Nanny suspected of killing 2 kids in NY home

NEW YORK (AP)—A nanny suspected of killing two young children she was looking after and then stabbing herself is in critical condition in a city hospital, as authorities continue to investigate a situation that is every parent’s nightmare.

The horror started for the children’s mother, Marina Krim, when she and a third child returned to their apartment on Manhattan’s Upper West Side Thursday evening. Puzzled by the darkened home, she returned to the lobby to ask the doorman if the nanny had gone out with 1-year-old Leo, just learning to walk, and 6-year-old Lucia, known as LuLu, lover of “all things princess.”

She was told they hadn’t left, so she returned upstairs. A search led to the bathroom, where the children’s bodies were in the bathtub and the nanny lay wounded nearby. It’s unclear how many times the children were stabbed.

“There was some kind of

screaming about, ‘You slit her throat!’” said music therapist Rima Starr, who lives on the same floor as the family, and said she heard screams coming from their apartment at around 5:30 p.m.

The nanny, Yoselyn Ortega, who was found near a knife, was hospitalized in critical condition and was in police custody. The children were pronounced dead at a hospital.

The children’s father, CNBC digital media executive Kevin Krim, who had been away on a business trip, was met by police at the airport on his return and was given an escort to the hospital where his loved ones had gathered.

The couple’s apartment building sits in one of the city’s most idyllic neighborhoods, a block from Central Park, near the Museum of Natural History and blocks from Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. The neighborhood is home to many affluent families, and seeing

children accompanied by nannies is an everyday part of life there, making the idea of such violence even more disturbing to residents.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said it’s unclear how long the nanny had worked for the family and the police investigation was ongoing. No charges had been filed.

Starr, the neighbor, said she believed the nanny had been hired just recently.

“I met her in the elevator, the day before yesterday, and was making small talk,” she said.

After police arrived, she said, the mother remained in the building’s lobby, screaming hysterically and clutching her surviving child.

On a webpage devoted to a recent family wedding, the eldest of the children, Lulu, is described as loving “art projects, ballet, and all things princess.” The youngest, Leo, was said to be just learning how to walk.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 dead after flying trooper fires at vehicle

MCALLEN, Texas (AP)—Three people were found wounded, two fatally, in a vehicle that was fired upon by a Texas state trooper in a helicopter. The incident happened Thursday afternoon near the South Texas border with Mexico near the town of La Joya (HOY’-yah), about 70 miles northwest of Brownsville. Katherine Cesinger (SEHS’-ih-njur) of the Texas Department of Public Safety says a DPS aircraft was helping a state game warden in a high-speed pursuit when the DPS officer on the aircraft opened fire. She says two people from the vehicle died, one was injured and six others were arrested. She called the shooting “an enforcement action” but declined to say whether police caused the deaths and injuries. She says the Texas Rangers are investigating and no other information was available.

Forecasters warn East Coast about ‘Frankenstorm’

WASHINGTON (AP)—All the spare parts appear to be coming together to create what forecasters are calling “Frankenstorm,” a monster combination of high wind, heavy rain, extreme tides and maybe snow that could cause havoc along the East Coast just before Halloween next week. Hurricane Sandy, having blown through Haiti and Cuba on Thursday, continues to barrel

north. A wintry storm is chugging across from the West. And frigid air is streaming south from Canada. And if they meet Tuesday morning around New York or New Jersey, as forecasters predict, they could create a big wet mess that settles over the nation’s most heavily populated corridor and reaches as far inland as Ohio.

With experts expecting at least \$1 billion in damage, the people who will have to clean it up aren’t waiting.

NYC police officer charged in cannibalism plot

NEW YORK (AP)—A city police officer dreamed up plots to kidnap, torture, cook and eat at least 100 women whose photos, names and addresses he pulled from a confidential law enforcement database, authorities said Thursday. Gilbert Valle’s fantasies about cannibalizing women—in one, he said he hoped to “cook her over low heat, keep her alive as long as possible”—were described in online fetish chat rooms and emails, and authorities said he was arrested because he was taking steps to carry them out. None of the women were harmed, although a prosecutor said some of the women said they knew Valle and that the six-year veteran had stalked at least two of them at home or work, including once in uniform in a police car in a “very intimidating fashion.” Authorities said he had had lunch with one of them.

Asia

China expels Bo from legislature, set for trial

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese lawmakers stripped disgraced politician Bo Xilai of his last official position Friday, formally expelling him from the country's top legislature and setting the stage for criminal proceedings against the once-rising political star.

Though largely a formality since Bo was purged from the Communist Party late last month, his expulsion from the congress removes his immunity from prosecution. That sets the stage for a criminal case involving accusations of corruption and other wrongdoing, including interfering in the investigation into the murder of a British businessman. Bo's wife and a household aide were convicted for the murder last month.

Communist Party leaders are keen to resolve the country's messiest political scandal in decades as they prepare for next month's once-in-a-decade transition of power. They are handing over to the next generation of leaders, who will be tasked with shoring up public support in the face of widespread disgust over official graft and influence peddling.

But they are unlikely to have enough time to push forward with the trial before a party con-

gress opens Nov. 8, said Ding Xueliang, an expert on the Chinese leadership at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

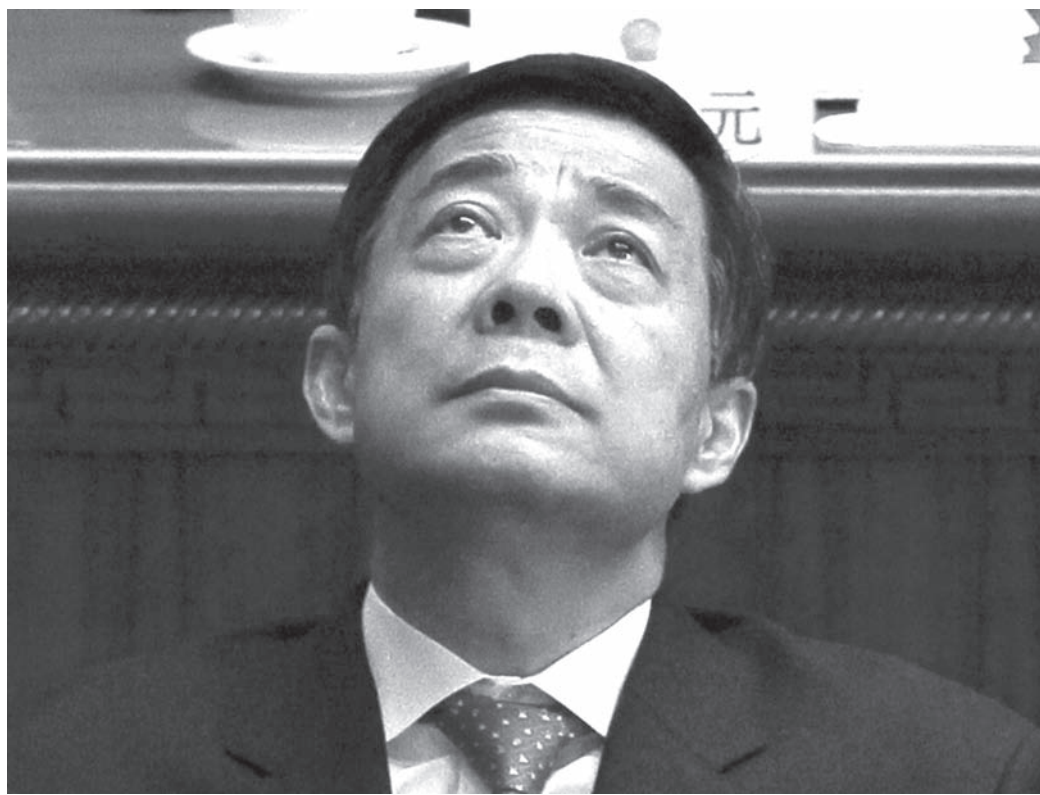
Preparations will involve leaders reaching a consensus on how harshly to punish Bo and which of his associates to include in the trial, Ding said. The leaders also need to be confident the headstrong Bo will be compliant, without launching embarrassing accusations or outbursts in the courtroom, Ding said.

"It's really a very muddy situation," he said.

As the most powerful official in the southwestern mega-city of Chongqing, Bo had been considered a candidate for a seat on the party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee, and his toppling exposed sharp infighting in the party's uppermost ranks.

The National People's Congress Standing Committee said it approved a decision to remove Bo as a deputy, but offered no details.

Bo's downfall has been spectacular: His wife, Gu Kailai, was convicted of murdering British businessman Neil Heywood, and Bo's former right-hand man



In this March 14, 2012 file photo, Bo Xilai, Chongqing party secretary, attends the closing session of the annual National People's Congress in the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing. AP

was accused of taking bribes, abusing power and trying to defect to the United States, among other crimes.

Even before that, Bo had angered many in Beijing with his populist style that defied the authoritarian party's demands

that those seeking higher office merely follow orders from Beijing and maintain a low-key image. Bo's initiatives included a sweeping crackdown on organized crime and a campaign to revive Mao-era songs and culture that reminded many of the excesses of the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

Bo's expulsion cements an impression of unity among the leadership in rejecting his neo-Maoist approach in favor

of stability under the incoming slate of leaders, said China politics expert Feng Chongyi of the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia.

"It's very positive in that way, but not sufficient to conclude that the party will become any more liberal," Feng said.

Chinese authorities have not yet announced specific charges against Bo, but in expelling him on Sept. 28, the party accused him of offenses reaching back

two decades that range from taking bribes and abusing his power to having improper relationships with several women. He has not been seen in public since mid-March and is believed to be in detention at a Beijing prison.

Beijing attorney Li Xiaolin said Thursday that Bo's wife's family has hired him and Shen Zhigeng to defend Bo, but the two lawyers are not formally accredited by the authorities to represent him yet. Bo's downfall was set off when his former police chief and close confidant Wang Lijun fled to the U.S. Consulate in the southwestern city of Chengdu, where he revealed to diplomats details of Heywood's death, which previously was called accidental. A month later, Bo was sacked as Chongqing's Communist Party secretary and suspended from the 25-member Politburo.

The scandal raised talk of a political struggle involving Bo supporters intent on derailing succession plans calling for Vice President Xi Jinping to lead the party for the next decade, as well as concerns over corruption among top-tier politicians.

A lengthy New York Times expose published Friday claimed the family of Premier Wen Jiabao has amassed assets worth \$2.7 billion through a web of investments, most of it accumulated after he rose to high office in 2002.

Officials: suicide bomber kills 35 in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up outside a mosque in northern Afghanistan on Friday, killing 35 people and wounding at least 70, government and hospital officials said.

The attack in the town of Maymana, capital of northern Faryab province, came as people were gathering at the mosque to celebrate the Eid al-Adha holiday, said Jawid Didar, spokesman for

the governor's office.

Top provincial officials, including the governor and the police chief, were inside the building when the bomber set off his explosives outside, where a large crowd had gathered, Didar said. The officials were not hurt, but the casualties included police officers and soldiers, he said.

"There was blood and dead bodies everywhere," said Khaled, a doctor who happened

to be in the mosque at the time of the blast. "It was a massacre," said Khaled, who like many Afghans uses only one name.

The attack came as Afghan President Hamid Karzai urged Taliban insurgents "to stop killing other Afghans."

In his Eid al-Adha message to the nation, Karzai called on the insurgents to "stop the destruction of our mosques, hospitals and schools."

preparing to withdraw its small contingent of 145 troops in April. The troops have been stationed in central Bamiyan province since 2003. Some Afghan translators who have worked for coalition forces have been killed by the Taliban and others have been threatened. Their fate has come under increasing scrutiny as many coalition countries prepare to withdraw troops.

China wants to stop profiteering at temple sites

BEIJING (AP)—China is telling tourist-favored Buddhist temples: Don't let money be your mantra. Authorities announced a ban this week on temples selling shares to investors after leaders of several popular temples planned to pursue stock market listings for them as commercial entities. Even the Shaolin Temple of kung fu movie fame was once rumored to be planning a stock market debut—and critics have slammed such plans as a step too far in China's already unrestrained commercial culture. "Everywhere in China now is about developing the economy," complained Beijing resident Fu Runxing, a 40-year-old accountant who said he recently went to a temple where incense was priced at 300 yuan (\$50) a stick.

Activist girl's dad vows she'll return to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The father of a 15-year-old Pakistani activist girl who was shot and wounded by a Taliban gunman vowed Thursday that she would return home after finishing medical treatment abroad despite new insurgent threats against her.

Since she was shot on Oct. 9 in northwestern Pakistan, Malala has become a hero both at home and internationally, although her work in speaking out against Taliban atrocities and advocating for girls' education has long been respected and known beyond her native Swat Valley.

The comments by the father, Ziauddin Yousufzai, were recorded by Pakistani state television. He's expected to fly soon to Britain to see his daughter and it was the first time he has spoken publicly since the shooting.

At the age of 11, Malala began writing a blog under a pseudonym for the BBC about life under the Taliban in Swat. After the military ousted the militants in 2009, she began publicly speaking out about the need for girls' education. She appeared frequently in the me-

dia and was given one of the country's highest civilian honors for her bravery.

A Taliban gunman shot her in the neck and head as she was in a school bus on her way home from school in the Swat Valley city of Mingora. Two other girls were injured in the attack.

She was airlifted to a hospital in Britain on Oct. 15. The Taliban have vowed to kill her, raising questions about whether it would be safe for her to return but her father dispelled reports the family might seek asylum abroad.

"I first laughed at it because all of our sacrifices, my personal (sacrifices), or this attack on my daughter, cannot have such a cheap purpose that we would go to some other country and live the rest of our life there," he said, speaking in Urdu.

The Taliban said they targeted Malala because she promotes "Western thinking," and have vowed to finish the job in the future.

Malala's father spoke alongside Interior Minister Rehman Malik at the minister's Islamabad office. Malik promised that the government would protect Malala and her family when

they returned.

Malik said Malala had asked her father to bring some of her school books with him when he goes to Britain.

"Even while sitting there she is taking care of her schooling," said Malik.

Malala has started talking and has spoken to both of her parents by phone, the interior minister said.

The 15-year-old is being treated at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham in central England, which has a major trauma center specializing in treating severe gunshot wounds, major head injuries and road accident victims. It is also home to the Royal Center for Defense Medicine, the primary receiving unit for military casualties returning from overseas.

The medical team caring for Malala at Birmingham hospital said in a statement Thursday that she was comfortable and continued to respond well to treatment.

Last Friday, the hospital released the first photographs of Malala since the shooting showing her lying in her hospital bed and said she was able to stand with help and write.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taliban claim Afghan attack killing 2 Americans

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban are claiming responsibility for what may have been the latest insider attack against Western troops. They say one of their infiltrators killed two American service members in Uruzgan province. A statement Friday said an Afghan soldier shot the men a day earlier, then escaped to join the insurgents. A spokeswoman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan said authorities were still determining whether the attacker was a member of the Afghan security forces or an insurgent who donned a government uniform. It was the second suspected insider attack in two days. On Wednesday, two British troops and an Afghan policeman were gunned down in Helmand province.

New Zealand offers residency to Afghan translators

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand says it will offer residency to all the military translators it employs in Afghanistan. Defense minister Jonathan Coleman on Friday announced New Zealand will offer resettlement packages to 23 Afghan interpreters and their immediate families, a total of about 73 people. New Zealand is

World

Sandy pounds Bahamas after killing 21 in Caribbean

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—Hurricane Sandy raged through the Bahamas early Friday after leaving 21 people dead across the Caribbean, following a path that could see it blend with a winter storm and reach the U.S. East Coast as a super-storm next week.

Sandy knocked out power, flooded roads and cut off islands in the storm-hardened Bahamas as it swirled past Cat Island and Eleuthera, but authorities reported no deaths in the scattered archipelago.

“Generally people are realizing it is serious,” said Caroline Turnquest, head of the Red Cross in the Bahamas, who said 20 shelters were opened on the main island of New Providence.

Sandy, which weakened to a category 1 hurricane Thursday night, caused havoc in Cuba early in the day, killing 11 people in eastern Santiago and Guantanamo provinces as its howling winds and rain toppled houses and ripped off roofs. Authorities said it was Cuba’s deadliest storm since July 2005, when category 5 Hurricane Den-



Many sweeps the muddy water from his small business in La Plaine, Haiti, as residents try to recover from the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012.

of 90 mph (150 kph) and was moving north-northwest at 13 mph (20 kph).

Forecasters warned that Sandy will likely mix with a winter storm to create a monster storm in the eastern U.S. next week whose effects will be felt along the entire Atlantic Coast from Florida to Maine and inland to Ohio.

Sandy, which crossed Cuba and reached the Bahamas as a category 2 hurricane, was expected to maintain its category 1 storm status for the next several days.

In the Bahamas, power was out on Acklins Island and most roads there were flooded, government administrator Berkeley Williams said.

On Ragged Island in the southern Bahamas, the lone school was flooded.

“We have holes in roofs, lost shingles and power lines are down,” said Charlene Bain, local Red Cross president. “But nobody lost a life, that’s the important thing.”

Steven Russell, an emergency management official in Nassau, said that docks on the western side of Great Inagua island had been destroyed and that the roof of a government building was partially ripped off.

Sooner Halvorson, a 36-year-old hotel owner from Colorado who recently moved to the Bahamas, said she and her husband, Matt, expected to ride out the storm with their two young children, three cats, two dogs and a goat at their Cat Island resort.

Fighting precedes scheduled start of Syria truce

BEIRUT (AP)—Heavy fighting between forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad and rebels preceded the dawn start of a proposed truce Friday, activists said, dimming prospects for a break in the bloody 19-month civil war.

Battles were still in progress at daybreak Friday, the beginning of a four-day Muslim holiday that was to coincide with the cease-fire, proposed by U.N.-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and endorsed by the Security Council.

If it takes effect, it would be the first pause in the fighting that has taken tens of thousands of lives. Earlier attempts by mediators to bring about a cease-fire failed, though elements of both sides had accepted truce proposals.

The Syrian regime accepted the cease-fire but left itself some significant loopholes, saying it would respond to rebel attacks. Some opposition groups said they would abide by the truce, but several rebel commanders dismissed it as irrelevant.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of activists, said the latest clashes took place in the central province of Homs, in Deir el-Zour in the country’s east and in the city of Aleppo. At least four rebels were killed and six soldiers were wounded in overnight fighting, the Observatory said.

The group said three people were also wounded when troops tried to disperse protesters after Friday prayers in the southern

province of Deraa, where the uprising began.

Rebels claimed major gains in the key battleground of Aleppo Thursday, pushing into predominantly Christian and Kurdish neighborhoods that had previously been held by pro-Assad forces in northern part of the city, the country’s largest.

The short holiday cease-fire was all a divided international community could agree on after the failure of a more ambitious plan for an open-ended truce and political transition talks by Brahimi’s predecessor, former U.N. chief Kofi Annan, in April.

The truce appeared shaky from the outset, since neither side has shown an interest in laying down arms, pushing instead for military gains.

Also, it wasn’t clear when exactly the cease-fire was supposed to begin, and there were no arrangements for monitoring compliance.

Brahimi has not said what was supposed to happen after four days, an ominous sign, since Assad and opposition leaders disagree sharply on how to proceed. Assad refuses to resign, while some opposition leaders say his departure is a prerequisite for any political talks. The fragmented opposition factions disagree over whether to negotiate with Assad at all.

Since the uprising against Assad began in March 2011, more than 35,000 people have been killed, including more than 8,000 government troops, according to activists.

Israel keeps silent on mysterious Sudan airstrike

JERUSALEM (AP)—Senior Israeli officials accused Sudan on Thursday of playing a key role in an Iranian-backed network of arms shipments to hostile Arab militant groups across the Middle East, a day after a mysterious explosion rocked a weapons factory near the North African country’s capital.

The tough words were likely to add to Sudanese suspicions that an Israeli airstrike was behind the blast. Israel has both the motive and means to carry out such an airstrike, and Sudan has accused Israel in the past of operating on its territory.

Israel considers Iran to be a grave threat, citing Iranian calls for Israel’s destruction, suspi-

cions that Iran is developing a nuclear bomb, and Iran’s support for militant groups on Israel’s southern and northern borders. Israeli officials have long contended that Sudan is a central player in Iranian efforts to funnel weapons to Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

Sudan claimed Wednesday that Israeli airstrikes caused an explosion and fire at a military factory south of the capital, Khartoum, killing two people. It said four aircraft hit the Yarmouk complex, setting off a huge blast that rocked the capital before dawn.

“They used sophisticated technology,” Sudan’s information

minister, Ahmed Belal Osman, said without elaborating. There was no word on the identities of the two people who were killed.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refused to comment on the incident at a news conference with the visiting Italian premier, Mario Monti.

But Netanyahu’s vice premier, Moshe Yaalon, said Israel had “nothing to cry about.”

Speaking to Israel Radio, Yaalon described Sudan as an important base for both Iranian and al-Qaida militants to carry out mayhem.

“It’s used as a base to disseminate terror, in Africa and in our direction too,” he said. “There’s no doubt that there is an axis of weapons from

Iran via Sudan that reaches us, and not just us. It shows Iran continues to be a rogue state stirring up not a few conflicts in the region.”

Sudan has been engaged in various armed conflicts for many years. Its government has been at war with rebels in the western region of Darfur and with its neighbors in South Sudan, which broke away to become Africa’s newest country in 2011.

Sudan’s president, Omar al-Bashir, has been indicted by the International Criminal Court on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Sudan was a major hub for al-Qaida militants and remains a transit for weapon smugglers and African migrant traffickers.

nis killed 16 people and caused \$2.4 billion in damage.

Sandy also killed one person while crossing Jamaica on Wednesday and 10 in Haiti, where heavy rains from the storm’s outer bands caused flooding in the impoverished and deforested country.

Late Thursday, the hurricane’s center was about 185 miles (300 kilometers) east-southeast of Freeport, Bahamas. The storm had maximum sustained winds

WORLD BRIEFS

Looters strip Bulgaria of ancient treasures

ARCHAR, Bulgaria (AP)—On the banks of the Danube, in the northwest corner of Bulgaria, lie the remnants of an ancient Roman settlement called Ratiaria, host to a priceless cultural heritage. Craters pockmark the huge site, evidence of a scourge threatening one of the world’s great troves of antiquities: looters digging for ancient treasure to sell on the black market. Archaeologist Krasmira Luka, who heads a team excavating part of the 80 hectare (200 acre) site, says the area has been repeatedly raided by thieves who dig pits looking for ancient coins and jewelry. Everything else, including precious ceramic vessels and other historically significant artifacts, is smashed to pieces. “Destroying the items is not just a crime, it’s an irreparable tragedy,” Luka said, looking out at a moonscape littered with shards of ceramics or glassware destroyed by the diggers. “The day after our team leaves the site, the diggers are in place. It’s an uneven battle.”

Soccer star, pop diva run in Ukraine’s election

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—An extravagantly dressed pop diva, a retired football star, the son of a famous actor, an opposition leader suspiciously cozy with the government. Meet some members of the eclectic cast running in Sunday’s parliamentary election in Ukraine. Ukrainian political parties have brought in celebrities or even created fake opposition in an effort to boost their ratings and split their rivals’ vote. Such tactics raise questions about Ukraine’s commitment to democracy and its hopes of integrating with the West. The two main pro-Western opposition parties hope to challenge President Viktor Yanukovich’s nearly three-year grip on power. They aim to wrestle the parliamentary majority away from his Party of Regions and undo actions that have been judged undemocratic by the West, such as the imprisonment of charismatic former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

Young Style

Victoria Justice grows up and leaps to the big screen

By **ROGER MOORE**
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ORLANDO, Fla.—“I’m a big girl, now,” Eva Marie Saint famously purred to Cary Grant in Hitchcock’s “North by Northwest.”

“Yaaaas,” Grant drawled back. “And in all the right PLAY-sez.”

So it is with Victoria Justice, former child star, now a stunning young brunette trying to make her way in the big girl world.

“I’m 19,” she says. “So no curfews. I can do what I want!”

She laughs. What she wants, right now, is to do movies, to star in a hit. Justice, late of TV’s “Victorious,” is the latest in a legion of Disney/ Nickelodeon/ ABC Family teens to try to make the leap from the small screen to the big one.

She’s doing it by starring in two PG-13 teen romantic comedies in theaters at the same time. “Fun Size,” opening Friday, has her playing straight-woman and concerned sister to an escape-prone little brother who gets away from her babysitting eyes on Halloween, of all nights. And the indie comedy “The First Time” is about teens in pursuit of that elusive first sexual encounter. But first, the leads have to get over their infatuation for Mr. and Ms. Wrong. Justice plays the girl the guy SHOULDN’T get in that one.

For Justice, “PG-13 is like turning it up a notch, a step in the right direction for me. I’m



Victoria Justice is shown on the set of the Paramount Pictures comedy “Fun Size”.

just letting it happen naturally. But I know I have to be smart about the projects I get into. I was seeing a lot of scripts that were young and fluffy and super girlie and not the least bit cool. That’s not what I wanted to try. I wanted to find something edgier, that would appeal to guys and girls equally. These seem to do exactly that.”

A Hollywood, Fla., native, Justice and her family moved to Los Angeles to pursue that Hilary Duff/ Miley Cyrus model—a pop-singing, acting career that begins on kids’ TV. She co-starred in “Zoey 101,” headlined the recently canceled “Victorious,” and spent enough time on those sets to see Hollywood as a career.

“I think my audience, my fans, will be able to come with me as I make this journey,” she says. “I see ‘Fun Size’ as sort of ‘Adventures in Babysitting’-meets-‘Superbad.’ Both these movies are rated PG-13, and ‘Fun Size,’ in particular, is enough like ‘Victorious’ that those fans will really be able to enjoy it ... And ‘The First Time’ is just as relatable, and super funny and very real. Characters take journeys in these movies, and grow up a little bit.”

Justice sees Natalie Portman, “who started really young, too, and then made great choices,”

as a role model. But only the box office take will decide if she gets to live that part of her dream, with reviews of “The First Time” coming in mixed and Justice earning the label “emotionally synthetic” in Time Out/ New York’s review.

But Justice still has her second role model, Justin Timberlake. And her Plan B—a record deal at Sony.

“I’m going back into the studio at the end of the year and hopefully my single will be ready for release early next year,” she says. “As soon as we get the album done, I’ll be touring. I’m super passionate about the creative process in music. It’s really gratifying to make something cool out of nothing, from the ground up.”

She’s not ruled college out, but “You have to strike while the iron’s hot. My parents taught me ‘Knowledge is power.’ But I haven’t taken the traditional education route. It doesn’t mean I’ve stopped learning. You have to read, watch documentaries, get information that way.”

“I might one day take college courses. I’m interested in psychology. But I’m super-busy right now, and I can’t see taking a break to just focus on school. Not right now. It’s just not realistic.”

Smart Spending: Strategies for finding hot toys

By **MAE ANDERSON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

It’s that season again, when parents begin the scramble for the next toy their child can’t live without.

While there’s no break-out hot toy for Christmas this year—so far—as parents know, that doesn’t mean the most popular presents will be easy to find. This year, stores are being cautious with inventory, so some toys might be scarce on store shelves when the holidays get nearer.

But never fear: Here are some strategies to make sure that whatever toy your child wants, from the latest Monster High doll or robotic Furby pet to the child-size LeapPad Explorer, is under the tree—without having to pay exorbitantly on eBay or elsewhere.

■ **SHOP EARLY:** Toy makers and retailers are working more diligently than ever to ensure that there won’t be a large

oversupply of toys after the holidays are over, which ends up costing them money.

Jim Silver, an analyst at Timetoplaymag.com, predicts the hottest toys will be scarce by Dec. 1—a time when many people are just starting to think about Christmas gifts. So even though you’re child’s thoughts may still be on Halloween, now is the time to figure out what he or she wants and start shopping.

■ **MAKE A RESERVATION:** Fortunately, this year stores are making it easy to shop early, with layaway services and other offers. So even if you don’t have the cash yet, you can still start shopping. Toys R Us, Wal-Mart and Kmart have dropped fees, minimum balances, and other requirements to make it easier than ever to use layaway programs. In addition, Toys R Us this year launched a “hot toy” reservation system, which lets parents reserve hot toys before they even hit shelves.

■ **GO ONLINE:** Not only can ordering toys online make shopping quicker and easier, it’s also a trove of information. Check out a brand’s Facebook page or Twitter hashtag to find other people looking for the same toys who may have tips on where to find them. In addition, using a shopping cart on Amazon may help you save money. Amy Barseghian, mother and blogger at mommymentor.com, recommends filling up your Amazon cart with toys—but waiting to actually buy them. If an item in your cart gets cheaper, Amazon will send you an alert.

■ **BE SMART ABOUT STORE STOCKING:** The days of running from store to store trying to find the hot toy are over, because most stores have added online services that can tell you which location has a product in stock. Many also offer ship-to-store options or same-day delivery. If they don’t, Vanek recommends calling be-

fore you go. If the store doesn’t have an item, make them do the work of calling other locations to locate what you want. Timing is key, Emily Vanek, mother of three sons and owner and editor of ColoradoMoms.com, says. She advises, if possible, to go shopping at lunch on Fridays, when stores are freshly stocked right before the weekend rush.

“That’s how we scored quite a few toys,” she says.

■ **ENLIST YOUR FRIENDS:** Your best weapon for finding hot toys may be your social circle. Vanek says she makes a list of all the toys on her list and then shares it with her friends, who also have their own lists.

“We all know what each other’s kids want, so if we see something, we’ll buy it and swap later,” Vanek says. If the other person already has that toy, just return it. “It beats looking for something on eBay and spending two or three times as much.”

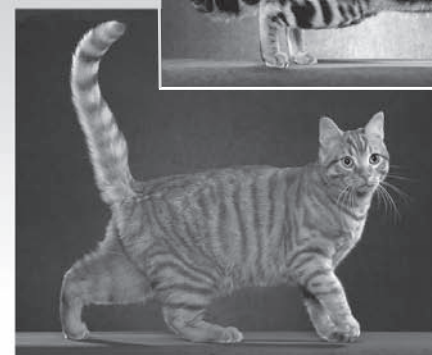
Science Matters

How cats get their spots

Researchers have found the gene that determines which of the two kinds of dark-and-light “tabby” markings a cat has.

“Classic” tabby coat pattern, with uneven dark patches

Gene expressed (active)



Gene not expressed

“Mackerel” tabby coat pattern, with even dark stripes

Gene affects how kitten’s hair follicles develop

Also in wild cats

African cheetahs also have the “Taqpep” gene, and their markings have two distinct variations

Common dotted pattern (left) and rare “king” pattern (right)



Source: Stanford University and HudsonAlpha Institute of Biotechnology, National Cancer Institute, Science magazine

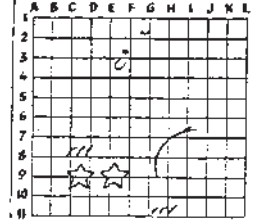


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Graphic: Helen Lee McComas

Junior Whirk

by Hal Kaufman

SPOT CHECK! Two stacks of cards are placed on the table. "Pick a card from this pile, remember its value, and place it in the other pile," says the magician. At which point he or she searches through and finds your card.



Secret: In advance, prepare the piles as follows: All odd cards — ace (counted as a "one"), five, jack, king, etc. — are contained in one pile. All even cards — queen, ten, eight, etc. — are contained in the other. Thus, any non-conforming card is easy to spot.

HEAR THIS! Empty wagons make the most noise, says an adage. Here's another, in a similar vein. After all, it's a idand one, more is aught and one. Rearrange spacing for sense. Time limit: 2 min.

QUICK DRAW SHOWCASE

HOLD THAT POSE! A certain creature is putting on a show above. To catch the act, simply add lines in accord with letter-number coordinates.

Start at F-11, draw a line from there to F-8, to C-8, to C-11, to F-11.

Draw from F-11 to H-10, to F-8, to E-8.

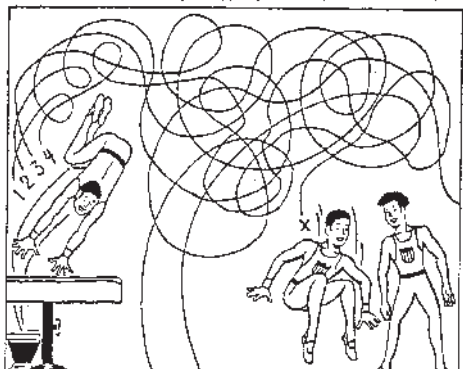
Start again, draw from I-11 to L-9, to K-6, to G-3, to G-1.

Draw from B-8 to E-5, to E-3, to G-1.

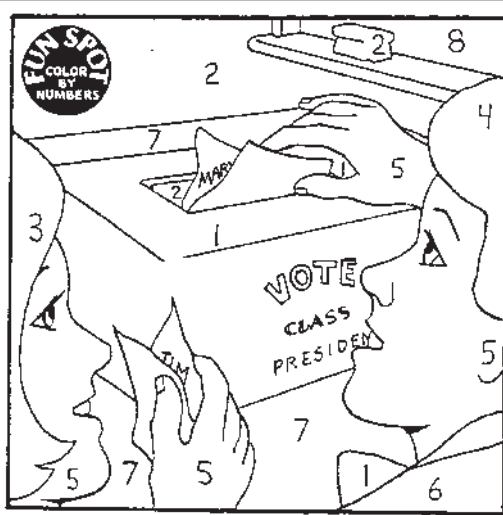
Use a sharp pencil, draw straight lines.

Be sure to draw lines in accord with letter and number coordinates.

Add colors later, if you wish.



FLIPPIN' OUT! Our gymnast pal does some fancy twists and turns before landing on his feet. Can you trace his route?



CLASS ACT! Who'll win the class election? Answer's in the ballot box. Colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. blue.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

BALLOTER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible maximum final total

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was Scotsman Bertie Charles Forbes, journalist and founder of Forbes magazine, who made the following sage observation: "There is more credit and satisfaction in being a first-rate truck driver than in being a tenth-rate executive."

■ The prospectors of 1849 might not have realized it, but you're more likely to find a 5-carat diamond than a 1-ounce nugget of gold.

■ You might be surprised—and, depending on your temperament, terrified—to learn that bats can fly at speeds up to 60 mph. Some can even reach altitudes of 10,000 feet.

■ Coffee beans are actually seeds. The fruit of the coffee tree is called a cherry and are said to be delicious. They spoil too quickly to be marketed effectively, though, so only the seeds are used.

■ Beverly Hills, Calif., is one of the most affluent areas of the country. It was not always such a posh locale, however; in 1920 the population was 674, and most of the land was given over to bean fields.

■ All joking aside, those who study such things say that natural blondes tend to have more difficulty driving than those whose hair is of a darker hue—at night, anyway. The reason? Most natural blondes also have blue eyes, which aren't as good as brown eyes at shielding out light. This means that blondes tend to be more easily blinded by the headlights of oncoming cars.

■ When a professional football player retires, there's a 50-50 chance he'll get divorced within a year.

■ Everybody dreams. Those who claim that they never have dreams just don't remember them.

■■■

Thought for the Day: "Any frontal attack on ignorance is bound to fail, because the masses are always ready to defend their most precious possession—their ignorance."—Hendrik Willem van Loon

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MAGIC MAZE • VIEWED THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON

GWUSRPIMJHEYCXZ
USQNRLLJRGECOZXV
TNANRECRWPNUILJH
ECLLLEHCTIMNAYW
VTD(ARMSTRONG)RPN
LKRRINDROFFATSD
GEICABZXEWUESA
RPNMOPMLJDYIGBR
EDRBLLEVOLNLAYN
XOWUTSQHPONANLO
BKJHTTOCSNIILOCC

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Anders
Armstrong
Bean
Borman

Cernan
Collins
Conrad
Irwin

Lovell
Mitchell
Scott
Shepard

Stafford
Young
Only 9 others

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

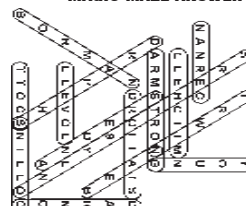
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	×		—			23
÷		—		+		
	×		+			10
+		×		÷		
	×		—			17
7		20		5		

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



VIEWED THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON

GO FIGURE ANSWER

5	20	7
17	3	4
÷	×	+
10	8	2
+	—	÷
23	7	5

Making your house a welcome pet home

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: We're planning to adopt a puppy in the next few weeks. Is there anything we should do to prepare our house to welcome our new dog when he or she arrives?—Clarice H., New Orleans

DEAR CLARICE: First of all, congratulations! Adopting a pet from the shelter is a great choice. Second, there are many things you can do ahead of time to make your house dog-friendly. The shelter may have some information to guide you as well, but here are some basic things to add to your list.

■ "Pet-proof" your house. In much the same way as parents need to child-proof their house, pet owners need to make dangerous items difficult to access. Things that can be chewed on, that can splinter or break into small pieces, should be kept off the floor and off things that are puppy height (like the coffee table).

■ Set up a living area for your puppy, in a comfortable spot out of the way of foot traffic. Place its pet bed there, along with chew toys.

■ Have your dog's leash, collar and other items ready and waiting. You'll want to purchase these after you've chosen your puppy but before bringing it home.

■ Set up a file among your household



papers specifically to hold your dog's adoption information, shot record, registration and other pet-related data. You also should keep a copy of these papers in a separate location.

■ Include your new pet in family emergency planning. If you have an evacuation or shelter-in-place kit, add dog food, treats and other essential items.

■■■

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Punched-tin can candle holders

It's time to start saving tin cans for this gift-giving idea for the holidays. Your eco-friendly school-age kids not only will like the recycling aspect of this punched tin tealight candle holder, but they'll also have a great time pounding nails into the tin and ice to create an imaginative design.

Think Thanksgiving home decor, too. Choose fall-themed images to create, like a maple leaf, gourd and pilgrim ship to brighten your Thanksgiving centerpiece.

Here's the stuff you'll need for one candleholder:

■ Plain tin can with label removed and all rough edges pinched flat and smooth. I use the smooth-sided 11-ounce Geisha brand mandarin orange cans for this project because they don't have multiple ridges or grooves.

■ Nail
■ Hammer
■ Water
■ Towel
■ Permanent black felt-tip marker
■ Thin ribbon to decorate the outside of the can.
■ Household glue
■ Tealight candle

Here's the fun:

1. Fill the can near to the top with water and place in your freezer to freeze.
2. When frozen solid, remove, wipe off frost on the outside of the can and dot design on the outside opposite the seam using the permanent marker. You may wish to draw the outline of a leaf or pumpkin for Thanksgiving. For December holidays draw a pine tree, holly, star, bell, menorah, 2013

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson



or other festive holiday symbol. Choose shapes that are easy to create dot to dot. Leave space near the top rim and base for adding ribbon.

3. Place the can on its side on the towel. Carefully hammer out the design by positioning the nail on each of the dots and hammering it through the tin until it hits the ice. (The ice prevents the nail from bending the tin.) Continue punching holes until you have completed your pattern.

4. Run warm water over can until ice melts. Remove ice and dry can.

5. Attach ribbon to the can with glue. Set candle in the center of the can and light.

Note: Adults should be present when lighting candles.

■■■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

(c) 2012 Donna Erickson
Distributed by King Features Synd.

Good Housekeeping

Custom sheds feature electrical wiring, fancy doors and windows

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

A shed is a must for any gardener.

It's where you plot your plans for your next butterfly garden.

It's where you sort your seeds for next year's vegetable garden.

It's where you relax and drink a cool beverage after a hot day weeding and watering.

And, sometimes, a backyard shed becomes more than just a garden building—it becomes a respite from anything and for everything.

That's what Studio Shed LLC is counting on.

The manufacturer, in Boulder, Colo., offers prefabricated structures that you can use for garden supplies, home office needs or studio space. Some families use them as detached getaways from the main house, according to a company spokeswoman. Others use them as exercise spaces, yoga

or pottery studios and even reading nooks. Men can think man-cave styles, too.

Studio Shed's customizable models come pre-packed with in-wall wiring and options like finished interior, Cloudlight windows and roof, glass fronts and French doors. Roofing is 24-gauge corrugated metal on top of weather paper.

Now the company features a "shed configurator" that allows you to configure and cost out almost any design you want. Just select the size, style, elements and materials you want and a price will be tallied.

"People come to us looking for extra space without having to move or undertake major home renovations," says co-owner Mike Koenig, in a press release.

"They want style and efficiency with customizable options at a reasonable price. Some customize a little, some



a lot. One client set his shed up to teach banjo by Skype to students worldwide."

Studio Shed's pricing starts at \$10,750 (\$89/square foot) for a 10-by-12 foot Lifestyle model with finished interior, plus shipping (starts at \$950) and installation (starts at \$1,550 for a regional certified Studio Shed installation team). A 10-by-12 foot Storage model that comes with unfinished interior, a steel door and clerestory windows starts at \$7,200 (\$60 square foot) plus shipping (starts at \$945) plus installation (starts at \$950). Garage models and DIY kits are also available. A permit services helps customers with building permit needs.

Learn more about the possibilities at www.studio-shed.com.

The original Studio Shed storage model was designed and built in 2006.

STUDIO SHED LLC/WWW.STUDIO-SHED.COM/MCT

WHAT'S COOKING

Potato Skins

Celebrate football season with our fully loaded skins. They weigh in at just 120 calories per serving versus the classic's 350, and have one-fifth the saturated fat. Our secret: lighter ingredients (reduced-fat sour cream, Pecorino cheese) that pack a lot of flavor. Touchdown!

4 large (russet) potatoes, well scrubbed

4 slices center-cut bacon
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
Salt
Pepper
1/3 cup reduced-fat sour cream

1 ounce Pecorino Romano cheese, finely grated
1 large (10- to 12-ounce) tomato, finely chopped
2 tablespoons snipped fresh chives

1. Preheat oven to 400 F.
2. With fork, pierce each potato 3 times. Place potatoes on parchment paper. Microwave on High 8 minutes. Turn over; microwave on High 10 minutes longer or until tender. Cover with kitchen towel; let cool.

3. Meanwhile, in 18-by-12-inch jelly-roll pan, arrange bacon in single layer. Roast 10 to 12 minutes or until browned and crisp. Drain on paper towels. When cool, crumble. Discard fat from pan but do not wipe clean; set pan aside. Reset oven to 475 F.

4. Cut each potato in quarters lengthwise. With spoon, scoop potato from skins, leaving about 1/4 inch of potato with skin and being careful not to break through skin. Reserve cooked potato for another use.

5. Arrange skins, skin side up, in single layer on reserved pan.

Brush with oil; sprinkle with 1/8 teaspoon each salt and freshly ground black pepper.

6. Roast 13 to 15 minutes or until browned and crisp. Transfer, skin sides down, to serving plate.

7. To assemble, spread 1 teaspoon sour cream on each skin. Top with cheese, tomato, bacon and chives. Makes 8 appetizer servings.

Parmesan Potato Pancakes

Just because the label says "mashed potatoes" doesn't mean these dried flakes can't do a lot more. Here, we've turned the ultimate convenience food into delicious pancakes that can be on the table in 25 minutes.

2 large eggs
1 cup water
2/3 cup potato flakes
2/3 cup all-purpose flour
1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon canola oil

1. In bowl, with fork, beat eggs with water. Stir in potato flakes, flour, Parmesan cheese, baking powder and salt; let stand 5 minutes.

2. In 12-inch skillet, heat oil on medium-high. Drop half of batter by 1/4 cup into hot skillet, and cook 2 minutes per side or until puffed and golden.

3. Transfer to rack on cookie sheet; keep warm in oven. Repeat with remaining potato mixture and 1 tablespoon of oil. Makes 8 pancakes.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/. (Hearst Communications, Inc.)

THIS IS A HAMMER

Painting Tips

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I'm painting my apartment next week, the first time I've ever done this. Do you have any painting tips?—Lana, Columbus, Ga.

A: Tons of tips, but limited space to list them all, unfortunately! First-timers often are daunted by the amount of paint and paint products to choose from, conflicting instructions from various sources, and sometimes a lack of helpful information from home-improvement store paint sections. Others feel it's simple enough to just buy a bunch of paint and brushes and just go for it. The reality falls somewhere in between.

Preparation is the most important rule to follow, however. You'll want to prepare the walls (and presumably trim) in the apartment for painting. You'll need to figure out not just what color paint to use, but how much of it to buy, and if the colors even work the way you

think they will. Here are a few tips to get you started:

■ Buy sample sizes of paint colors you're interested in, and paint a stripe of each in an inconspicuous section of the wall. Paint looks different when wet and when dry.

■ How much paint should you buy? A gallon of latex paint covers 350 square feet. Measure the length of each wall and add the figures together. Measure the height of the room from floor to ceiling. Multiply the first number by the height of the room and you'll have your square footage.

■ Wash all surfaces to be painted with a damp sponge soaked in a soap and water solution and then squeezed to remove most of the water. Let the surfaces dry for about a half-day, longer if it's rainy or humid.

■ Remove protruding nails and patch nail holes and small (less than 1/2 inch) dents and holes with spackling compound. Once it's dry, sand the compound lightly and wipe with a damp sponge to remove dust.

■ Mask off areas you don't want to paint using blue paint-

er's tape, which comes off more easily than masking tape.

■ Covering a dark wall with a lighter paint? Prime the wall first with a primer that is close to or matches the color of the new paint.

■ Ditto for covering one type of paint, such as an oil-based paint, with a different type, such as latex paint. A primer coat will keep your new paint from bubbling, cracking or peeling.

■ Make sure the area being painted is well ventilated; additionally, wear a filter mask (not a dust mask) to reduce inhala-

tion of paint fumes.

HOME TIP: Paint stores will pre-mix your paint after you purchase it, saving a lot of time, but you still should stir the paint for a few seconds immediately before beginning to paint with it.

Send your questions or comments to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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- Ability to speak, read, write, and understand Mandarin preferred.
- Must have valid driver's license with clean driving record.
- Must be willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Applications may be obtained from the Front Office of Century Tours, located at the Kanoa Resort, Saipan, Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan. Deadline for submission of applications is Thursday, November 1, 2012.

Life & Style

Ai Weiwei goes 'Gangnam Style'—with handcuffs

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei is the latest to go "Gangnam Style"—but in a trademark act of irreverence, he's thrown in a pair of handcuffs and a poke at Chinese censors.

In a video posted on YouTube, Ai sports a neon-pink T-shirt, black jacket and dark sunglasses and energetically mimics rodeo-style dance moves made famous by South Korean rapper PSY, whose original video became an Internet sensation.

Ai said he and several friends made the video Wednesday and uploaded it overnight. In one scene, he swings two pairs of handcuffs while dancing. The video also was posted on Chinese websites, but censors apparently had scrubbed it off many of them by Thursday morning.

Ai told The Associated Press on Thursday that he decided to make the video after learning that the family of his friend Zuoxiao Zuzhou, a famous rock star in China, was losing their home to a demolition crew. The artist said he thought a little humor could alleviate some of the frustration felt by the Chinese public.

"Our happiness is constantly being taken away from us, our homes demolished, we are always controlled, passports can be taken away from us, and all these can affect our happiness," Ai said. "However, every morning we have the opportunity to give others something to laugh about. Laughter is important."

The video is titled "Grass Mud Horse Style," in Chinese, a sly insult Ai coined as a stab at the country's Internet cen-



Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei appears on a YouTube video clip displayed on a computer screen at his studio in Beijing, China, Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012. In the video, Ai sports a neon-pink T-shirt, black jacket and dark sunglasses and energetically mimics rodeo-style dance moves made famous by South Korean rapper PSY whose original video became an Internet sensation.

sors. The Chinese characters are homonyms for a vulgar slur.

Ai was detained without ex-

planation for three months last year, apparently as punishment for his political activism.

Cast defends timing of US film on bin Laden raid

NEW YORK (AP)—The team behind the television movie "SEAL Team Six: The Raid on Osama bin Laden" is saying the film was not recut to give a starring role to President Barack Obama two days before the presidential election.

National Geographic Channels CEO David Lyle says the film was indeed recut—but to show less footage of the president than an earlier version of the film.

"I think the end titles run longer than Obama's time on screen," Lyle said.

The movie has been accused by conservatives of having a political agenda in part because of its Nov. 4 premiere date and its backing by Obama supporter Harvey Weinstein. On Wednesday, The New York Times reported that a copy of the film provided to the paper showed that it had been recut to strengthen Obama's role.

Lyle said the movie was "well timed for us because we believe the topic is interesting at all times" and called the notion that two minutes of screen time would affect the election laughable.

"People that haven't seen the movie have decided that it's a political event. Believe me, in 85 million homes, a movie from National Geographic is not going to change the outcome of the election in a country of 300 million," Lyle said.

Produced by Weinstein and National Geographic, the 90-minute film depicts the mission that took down bin Laden in Pakistan. It mixes interviews with flashbacks and archival footage that leads the famed SEAL Team Six squad to a fortified compound where a mysterious 6'5" bearded figure was believed to be staying.

It's the first original film to come out of the National Geo-

graphic Channel, which has about 85 million viewers, and it's slotted to come out a few weeks before "Zero Dark Thirty," another film about the raid by "Hurt Locker" director Kathryn Bigelow.

Freddy Rodriguez, who plays a Navy SEAL in "SEAL Team Six," said there was no political agenda behind the film.

"I think people who are in the opposing party, are going to say that, of course. It's bound to happen because it fell on Obama's watch. And there's footage of him in the film, so how could people not have that criticism, it's almost expected," Rodriguez said.

His co-star, Kathleen Robertson doesn't believe the criticism is fair.

"It's impossible to make a film about the killing of Osama bin Laden without the president being a part of that film," Robertson said.

Soundtrack to history: 1878 Edison audio unveiled

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. (AP)—It's scratchy, lasts only 78 seconds and features the world's first recorded blooper.

The modern masses can now listen to what experts say is the oldest playable recording of an American voice and the first-ever capturing of a musical performance, thanks to digital advances that allowed the sound to be transferred from flimsy tinfoil to computer.

The recording was originally made on a Thomas Edison-invented phonograph in St. Louis in 1878.

At a time when music lovers can carry thousands of digital songs on a player the size of a pack of gum, Edison's tinfoil playback seems prehistoric. But that dinosaur opens a key window into the development of recorded sound.

"In the history of recorded sound that's still playable, this is about as far back as we can go," said John Schreiner, a trustee at the Museum of Innovation and Science in Schenectady, where it was

played Thursday night in the city where Edison helped found the General Electric Co.

The recording opens with a 23-second cornet solo of an unidentified song, followed by a man's voice reciting "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and "Old Mother Hubbard." The man laughs at two spots during the recording, including at the end, when he recites the wrong words in the second nursery rhyme.

"Look at me; I don't know the song," he says.

When the recording was played using modern technology during a presentation Thursday at a nearby theater, it was likely the first time it had been played at a public event since it was created during an Edison phonograph demonstration held June 22, 1878, in St. Louis, museum officials said.

The recording was made on a sheet of tinfoil, 5 inches wide by 15 inches long, placed on the cylinder of the phonograph Edison invented

in 1877 and began selling the following year.

A hand crank turned the cylinder under a stylus that would move up and down over the foil, recording the sound waves created by the operator's voice. The stylus would eventually tear the foil after just a few playbacks, and the person demonstrating the technology would typically tear up the tinfoil and hand the pieces out as souvenirs, according to museum curator Chris Hunter.

Popping noises heard on this recording are likely from scars left from where the foil was folded up for more than a century.

"Realistically, once you played it a couple of times, the stylus would tear through it and destroy it," he said.

Only a handful of the tinfoil recording sheets are known to survive, and of those, only two are playable: the Schenectady museum's and an 1880 recording owned by The Henry Ford museum in Michigan.

007

A look back at 50 years of music and James Bond:
Movie • Artist

SONG ...	TITLE SONG
Dr. No — 1962	John Barry Orchestra
From Russia With Love — 1963	Matt Monro
Goldfinger • Shirley Bassey — 1964	
Thunderball • Tom Jones — 1965	
You Only Live Twice — 1967	Nancy Sinatra
On Her Majesty's Secret Service — 1969	John Barry Orchestra
Diamonds Are Forever — 1971	Shirley Bassey
Live and Let Die — 1973	Paul McCartney and Wings
The Man with the Golden Gun • Lulu — 1974	
The Spy Who Loved Me — 1977	Carly Simon
Moonraker • Shirley Bassey — 1979	
For Your Eyes Only — 1981	Sheena Easton
Octopussy • Rita Coolidge — 1983	
A View to a Kill • Duran Duran — 1985	
The Living Daylights • a-ha — 1987	
License to Kill • Gladys Knight — 1989	
"Skyfall" will star Daniel Craig as James Bond	
GoldenEye • Tina Turner — 1995	
Tomorrow Never Dies • Sheryl Crow — 1997	
The World Is Not Enough • Garbage — 1999	
Die Another Day • Madonna — 2002	
Casino Royale • Chris Cornell — 2006	
Quantum of Solace — 2008	Alicia Keys, Jack White
Skyfall • Adele — 2012	

Songs of note

Moonraker
Shirley Bassey has performed the most Bond title themes

Live and Let Die
First to be nominated for Academy Award for Best Original Song

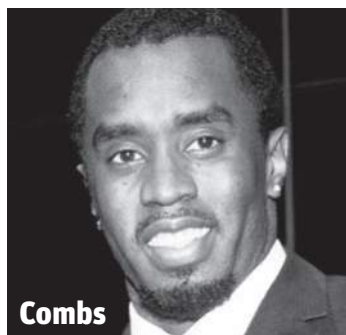
A View to a Kill
Only song to peak at No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100

Another Way to Die
First duet; features White on vocals, guitar and drums and Keys on vocals

Skyfall
The newest title theme is performed by Grammy award winner Adele

Source: Internet Movie Database, AP, MCT Photo Service

© 2012 MCT



Combs

Rep: Sean 'Diddy' Combs being treated after crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs is being treated for injuries he sustained during a minor car accident in Beverly Hills, California.

A spokeswoman for the 42-year-old rapper-producer says he hurt his neck, ribs and collar-

bone in the crash Wednesday on Sunset Boulevard near the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Combs was a passenger in a Cadillac Escalade when a Lexus sedan made a left turn and collided with it. A police lieutenant said Combs complained of pain

but he was not taken to a hospital at the time.

Publicist Keesha Johnson said Thursday that doctors are now treating Combs, and he is grateful for the outpouring of fan support following the accident.

Kelly Clarkson grand marshal for pre-Mardi Gras parade

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Pop star Kelly Clarkson will ride as celebrity grand marshal when the Krewe of Endymion parade rolls on the Saturday before Mardi Gras in 2013.

Clarkson was the first winner of the Fox reality show "American Idol" in 2002. Her hits include "A Moment Like This" and "Because of You."

Organizers say she'll perform at Endymion's ball at the Superdome after the parade.

Clarkson may be upstaged at the Feb. 9 parade by a float that organizers say will be the largest and most elaborate in Carnival history.

The super float will be 250 feet (76 meters) long and carry more than 200 riders. Its design focuses on Pontchartrain Beach, the amusement park that entertained generations on the New Orleans lakefront before closing in 1983.

Mardi Gras is Feb. 12.

Carly Rae Jepsen named Billboard's Rising Star

This Sept. 30, 2012 file photo shows singer Carly Rae Jepsen performing at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

AP



NEW YORK (AP)—Carly Rae Jepsen has had a breakout year, and now Billboard has named her its Rising Star of 2012.

The "Call Me Maybe" singer will be honored at Billboard's annual Women in Music event in New York City on Nov. 30. She'll join Katy Perry, who has been named Woman of the Year.

In a statement Thursday, Jepsen says she was influenced by many female artists and hopes to inspire budding musicians the way her heroes inspired her.

Previous recipients include Nicki Minaj and Lady Gaga.



Singer Katy Perry performs for a crowd before the arrival of President Barack Obama at a campaign rally, Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012, in Las Vegas.

Katy Perry wears her ballot at Obama rally

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Katy Perry's doing her best get-out-the-vote effort: At a rally for President Barack Obama, she wore a tight white dress imprinted like a ballot, and a square box on her right hip filled in the names of Obama and Joe Biden.

Perry gave a free concert at a park in a historically minority neighborhood just northwest of downtown Las Vegas to screaming fans at about 9 p.m., the same time Air Force One landed at McCarran International Airport across town.

Obama later told the crowd, "I believe in you. I need you to keep believing in me."

The Las Vegas campaign event drew more than 10,000 people,

according to fire officials and organizers, with long lines still on sidewalks during Perry's 30-minute performance before Obama arrived.

The singer opened with a rendition of Al Green's soul hit, "Let's Stay Together," and played five songs, including "Teenage Dream," before ending with a thumping bass drum version of "Firework."

Perry, who recently also played a free concert at an Obama event in Los Angeles, paused before the last song Wednesday to exhort people in the Las Vegas crowd to vote early.

"Don't wait. Go tomorrow," she said. "How many of you are 18 here? It's going to be your first time, right?"

Young peeping tom must face stronger consequences

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 20-year-old female with five younger brothers and sisters. My 18-year-old sister is my biological sister, while my youngest four siblings are adopted.

At the beginning of the year I discovered my 14-year-old brother has been peeping on my sister. When my parents found out, they sent him to counseling, but my sister is still pretty scarred from it.

Today, when I was in the bathroom, I realized my brother was peeping at me through a hole in the wall. I feel extremely violated, but because he is only 14, I don't know what to do. How can we get him to stop, and how can my sister and I feel comfortable in our house again?

SCARED OF MY BROTHER THE PEEPER

DEAR SCARED: You and your sister should be able to feel comfortable in your own home. Tell your parents that the counseling your brother received hasn't worked, then show them the hole he has been peeping through. Clearly, whatever consequences there were for his actions the first time were not enough to discourage his behavior. Your sister may need counseling to get beyond it.

The hole should be repaired—and until it is, tape a small mirror over it so that if he tries to peep again, all he will see is his own eyeball. And tell your sister to do the same.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Carl," and I have been together for six months. We're both 29. We live together, work for the same employer and each have one child.

My problem is, we argue constantly. We fight about the kids, money, chores, etc. The smallest thing can turn into a major battle. Do you think it's too early to be fighting so much? I feel obligated to make it work because my son's father and I broke up before he was born, and he has now become attached to Carl and his daughter. Please help!

TORN IN TORRANCE, CALIF.

DEAR TORN: Yes, it's too early to be fighting this way. It was also way too early to start living together. Couples counseling may help you and Carl resolve your issues—but only if he is willing to work on them as you are. If that isn't the case, you should move on QUICKLY, before your son forms an even stronger attachment. At this point, it can be done without the expense of a lawyer.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mom pays me \$3 a week to do chores around the house. I take out the garbage, do the dishes, vacuum and set the table every night. I'm frustrated that I'm being paid such a small amount for doing a ton of work.

I told her I'm on "strike" and I'm tired of being her slave. Whenever I mention getting a raise, she claims she'll talk to my dad about it—but she never does! How do I get paid more?

SINCERELY, LAUREN

DEAR LAUREN: If your father is the source of the money, then don't depend on your mother to intercede for you. Talk to him yourself. And when you do, be prepared to tell him what a good job you have been doing—and that you would be willing to take on a few more responsibilities for a little more compensation. Consider it your first lesson in the art of negotiation.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Pippa Middleton publishes book on how to party

LONDON (AP)—One thing everyone in Britain can agree on: Pippa Middleton knows how to party. So Middleton—the sister of Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge—was marking the release of her new book, "Celebrate," with a private launch party Thursday night, posing outside Daunt Books in west London. "Celebrate" is Middleton's guide to home entertaining. It draws on her experiences working with her parents' business, Party Pieces, and a London-based events company. It has tips on entertaining for different celebrations throughout the year as well as recipes, crafts and

games. Middleton said she hopes to give readers ideas without breaking the bank. Penguin published "Celebrate" on Thursday in the U.K., priced at >25 (\$40). Viking is publishing a U.S. edition on Oct. 30.

Carla Bruni to French first lady: Get hitched

PARIS (AP)—Former French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy says she thinks her unmarried successor, Valerie Trierweiler, should get hitched to be taken more seriously. In her first interview since Nicolas Sarkozy lost France's presidential elections six months ago, the former supermodel dished out some friendly

advice to Trierweiler, telling the French edition of Elle Magazine: "I think it is simpler to be the legitimate wife of the head of state rather than being his partner." She added, "For my part I felt a real easing of the general concern about me when I married Nicolas." Bruni-Sarkozy also suggested that Trierweiler, who has drawn criticism for continuing her work as a journalist, would find it easier if she ditched her career. President Francois Hollande has never married.

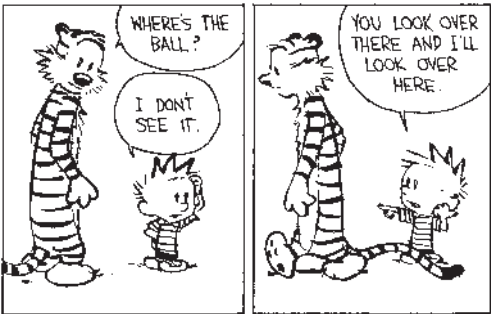
Actor Jack Scalia arrested for gun at LA airport

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police at Los Angeles International Air-

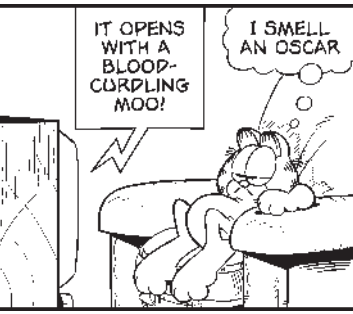
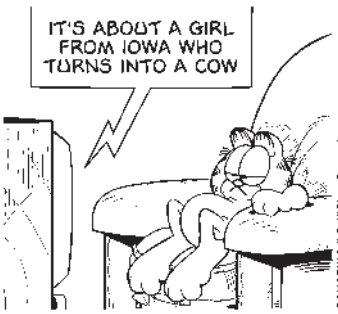
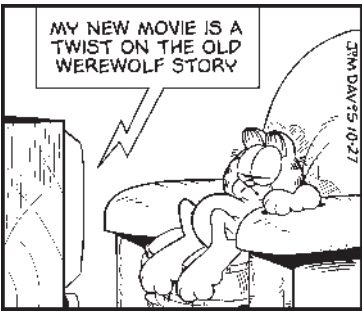
port say actor Jack Scalia has been arrested after security screeners found an unloaded handgun in his carry-on bag. Sgt. Belinda Nettles says the 61-year-old Scalia, who had recurring roles on "All My Children," "Remington Steele" and "Dallas," was arrested Thursday afternoon in Terminal 7. No further details were released. According to the Internet Movie Database, Scalia played the role of Nicholas Pearce on "Dallas." The character plunged to his death from a balcony following a fight with J.R. Ewing. Scalia played Chris Stamp on "All My Children" from 2001 to 2003. A representative of Scalia could not be reached for comment late Thursday.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



Garfield® By Bill Waterson

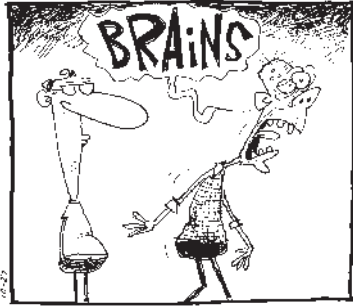
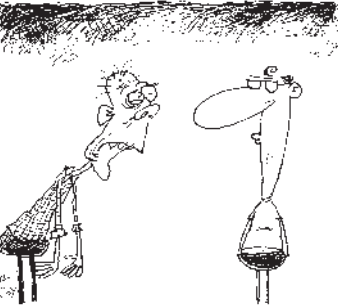
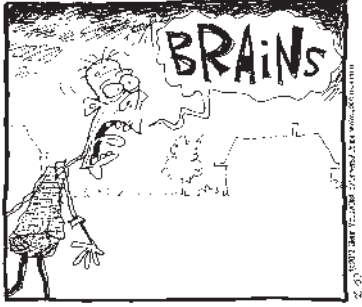


By Jim Davis

Adam@home



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 One of the kin

4 Genie's home

8 Green or Rogen

12 Noshed

13 Bloodhound's clue

14 Temptation

15 Cribbage scorer

16 Un-escorted

17 Belligerent deity

18 Insignificant sum

21 Still

22 Last letter

23 Pollster's find

26 Moment

27 Moo goo gai pan

30 Deception

31 Solidify

32 Marathon fraction

33 Mel of Coopers-town

34 "Family Guy" ailer

35 Annie's dog

36 Botheration

37 Erstwhile acorn

38 Universe explanation

45 Vicinity

46 Greek vowel

47 Court

48 Inmates

49 Watchful one

50 Drag along

51 Dandling site

52 Whodunit writer

53 Vast expanse

3 Genesis maker

4 Hung lazily

5 Take as one's own

6 Stereo forerunner

7 Tavern snack

8 Chalkboard

9 Continental coin

10 Almond or pecan

11 Pianist

19 Bobcat kin

20 Early nuclear org.

23 However, in verse

24 Deterioration

25 Dine on

26 Driver's license datum

27 Triumph

28 Bygone

29 Crucial

31 Treasure seekers

32 Create

34 Rx watchdog grp.

35 About 30 percent of Africa

36 Lower in rank

37 Playful water critter

38 Endorse

39 Press

40 Heredity unit

41 "The Third of May 1808" painter

42 They give a hoot

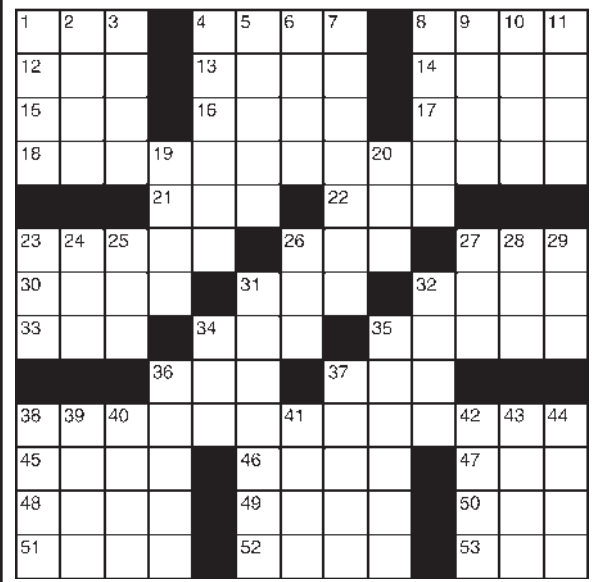
43 Libertine

44 Relaxing practice

Solution time: 27 mins.

PRO CAB MAVEN
SAP ONO ALIKE
ADE DOWNSIZED
LIN ADIOS
MOSS EEN SERA
HAIRS UPKEEP
UPDIKE ILLDE
GROG TARSUCH
BUNCO DUO
DOWNRIGHT DRY
ADOBE LILL
HENCE EDO RYE

Yesterday's answer 10-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Osbourne, 28; Patrick Fugit, 30; Peter Firth, 59; John Cleese, 73.

Happy Birthday: Discover your capabilities. Challenges will help you broaden your perspective and lead to bigger and better opportunities. Focus on self-improvements and sticking close to people you find inspiring. Engage in positive projects that promise to benefit you. Your numbers are 4, 9, 21, 27, 30, 36, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A short trip will open personal opportunities. Engage in something new and you will dominate a situation that can bring you great joy. Actions will be required, but in the end, what you receive will be worth your time and effort. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let minor mishaps get you down. Indulge in the things you enjoy doing most and put any negativity you face on the shelf for now. A relationship you have with someone will improve if you are attentive and do things together. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Tend to chores or a job you must finish. Let your imagination wander and you will find a way to outmaneuver any competition you face. An unsuspecting approach will bring fabulous response. Do something out of the ordinary if you have downtime. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a stance and take action. Express your thoughts, ideas and plans. You will dazzle the people you deal with and bring about a positive change that will enhance your life personally and professionally. Socializing will lead to greater security. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Gather information and you will be armed with the knowledge you need to do what must be done. Problems at home with family members will keep you busy. Diplomacy will be required if you wish to get your way. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A financial move that will help you seal a deal should be considered. Changes at home that are thought out must be put into motion, even if you do face opposition. Excess and overreacting can be expected and must be stifled quickly. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A change with a relationship will be abrupt and emotional. Before you do or say something you may regret, back up and show a little compassion. Diplomacy will help put out a fire that is fueled by misinterpretation. Make love, not war. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Much can be accomplished if you don't dawdle. There is plenty to consider, but being able to act is what will make you better than everyone else. Look, see and do and you will make a statement that others will respect. Love is enhanced. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Home and family is where you should be putting your time and effort. Making alterations that accommodate you and your loved ones will also lead to socializing more and entertaining the people you want to spend the most time with. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let the changes others make disrupt your plans. Focus on the things you believe in and how you can ensure that you do the best you can to make things happen that will benefit your community and your personal goals. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful what you say and do. Your reputation may be at stake if you are too vocal regarding your beliefs and intentions. Stick close to home and make the adjustments that help build a stronger bond with the people you love most. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Talk to someone who can offer you financial advice. Look over your current situation and you will come up with a creative way to make your money stretch. A partnership can be favored, but only if you both contribute equally. ***

Birthday Baby: You are determined to conquer, but you're also thoughtful and fair.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	3	6	7	4	9	2	8
7	9	4	8	1	2	5	3	6
2	8	6	3	5	9	4	1	7
4	6	8	9	3	1	7	5	2
9	3	2	5	4	7	6	8	1
1	7	5	2	6	8	3	9	4
3	4	9	1	8	6	2	7	5
6	5	1	7	2	3	8	4	9
8	2	7	4	9	5	1	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 10/27

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MARK WAILBERG Solution: 8 letters

R M B O A R D W A L K C O L B
T E A M S T E R S S H O O T E R
P H N R C O N T R A B A N D D
E A R A K K E J S D E B B I E
N L S E I Y R N U E L L A E T
Y M L D E S M E T V H R E I R
A A S E R K S A T O I C H N A
P A U L H A I A R H U E R N P
N J H O G C Y N N K G R S O E
A I O A D E I Y G C U I A D D
D M M F I G C M E S E I P G D
N E E G H L E A H C E I M A X E
E A O T R U H T R A A E A C B
R O S T R E B O R G E R R N U
B O J N A I L A T I R A T S C

10/27

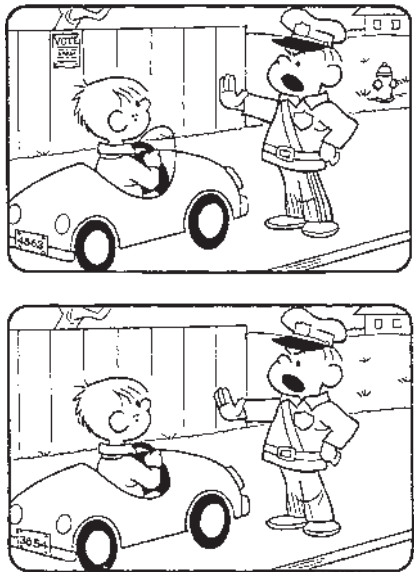
Alma, Arthur, Block, Boardwalk, Boogie, Brendan, Contraband, Cubed, Debbie, Departed, Donnie, Dorchester, Ella, Empire, Entourage, Fear, Fighter, Game, Grace, Home, Italian Job, Jim, Juvies, Kids, Marky Mark, Max, Michael, Michelle, Nights, Paul, Payne, Renaissance Man, Rhea, Robert, Shooter, Star, Teamsters, Three Kings, Tracey, Yards

Yesterday's Answer: Reset

The NFL's Fantasy Football season is now in progress. Visit fantasyfootball.com for more information. The NFL's Fantasy Football season is now in progress. Visit fantasyfootball.com for more information.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawings details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

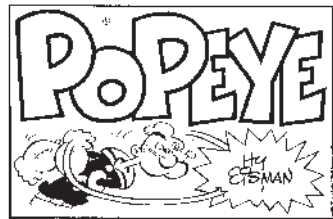
Differences: 1. Boy's hair is missing. 2. Boy's shirt is missing. 3. Boy's pants are missing. 4. Boy's shoes are missing. 5. Boy's belt is missing. 6. Boy's tie is missing.

Wishing Well®

7	4	7	4	3	4	3	4	6	3	2	8	2
S	H	E	A	K	P	E	P	S	E	D	M	O
8	6	5	7	2	4	2	6	2	4	3	4	3
A	P	U	E	N	Y	O	R	T	F	P	R	P
8	5	6	5	7	6	3	6	5	4	6	4	3
K	N	E	C	K	A	R	D	A	A	S	M	O
2	5	8	4	6	5	2	6	7	5	8	6	8
H	N	E	E	M	N	E	I	A	Y	A	L	C
4	8	6	2	6	4	8	7	5	8	4	5	8
O	H	E	S	S	F	I	D	T	L	M	I	D
2	3	4	8	4	3	7	2	5	7	8	4	5
I	M	I	H	N	I	V	T	M	I	A	D	I
8	2	5	2	8	2	8	5	7	3	7	3	3
P	A	N	T	P	E	Y	G	C	S	E	E	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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OR MESSIE SAUTEED SCALLOPS IN A BACON WRAP

THAT WOULD BE A TREAT!

HOW 'BOUT A SAUSAGE 'N PEPPERS CASSEROLE?

I KIN NEVER SAY NO TO THAT!

SO? WHICH ONE IZZIT GONNA BE?

I'LL LET YA DECIDE!

BETCHA WE END UP WIT A PIZZA DELIVERY!

HY EYEMAN



I WUZ THINKIN' OF COOKIN' LINGUINI AN' CLAMS PER T'NIGHT!

DELISH!

I ALSO THOUGHT OF STEAK WIT A MUSHROOM SAUCE...

MY FAV' RIT!

I COULD ROAST A CHICKEN WIT GRAMMAY TATERS!

MY FAV' RIT!

HY EYEMAN



I ALSO THOUGHT OF STEAK WIT A MUSHROOM SAUCE...

MY FAV' RIT!

I COULD ROAST A CHICKEN WIT GRAMMAY TATERS!

MY FAV' RIT!

I COULD ROAST A CHICKEN WIT GRAMMAY TATERS!

MY FAV' RIT!

HY EYEMAN

They'll Do It Every Time

FOLK REMEDIES NO. 1,751- WHAT TO DO FOR HICCUPS...

TAKE SEVEN SIPS OF WATER...

HOLD YOUR BREATH...

PULL YOUR EARS AND SWALLOW...

WHY NOT WAIT IT OUT TILL THEY'RE GONE?

LIQUOR...

THANKS TO LEAH WEISS, YONKERS, N.Y.

SIGN OF THE TIMES... COOKBOOKS GALORE... BUT...

WHERE DID YOU GET THIS RECIPE? AND WHAT THE G*%*% IS THIS?

IT'S SQUID CACCIAOTORE SUPREME... GOT IT OFF THE BACK OF THIS TOMATO JAR... DON'T YOU JUST LO-O-OVE IT?

THANKS TO B. HARRISON, PORTLAND, ORE.

SHOCK WAVES... YOU BUY A SECOND TV SET SO WIFEY CAN WATCH HER FAVORITE PROGRAMS THEN...

MY SET WENT BLOOEY! I HAVE A BET ON THE BIG GAME! I GOTTA SEE IT!

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With small ball, Giants win for 2-0 lead



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Long ball one night, a Giant dose of

small ball the next.

Two wins in two games and suddenly San Francisco doesn't need to dig itself out of a post-season hole for a change.

Madison Bumgarner shut down the Detroit Tigers for seven innings, then the Giants took advantage of a bunt that stayed fair to eke out the go-ahead run in a 2-0 win Thursday night for a 2-0 edge in the World Series.

Gregor Blanco's single trickled to a stop inches fair on the infield dirt, setting up Brandon Crawford's run-scoring double-play grounder in the seventh. Hunter Pence added a sacrifice fly in the eighth, and that was plenty for these masters of the October comeback.

"It definitely feels a whole lot better than having our backs against the wall," Bumgarner said. "But you can't relax. We've got to keep pushing."

Game 3 will be Saturday night in Detroit and for once, the Giants aren't playing from behind. They overcame a 2-0 deficit to beat Cincinnati in the best-of-five division series and escaped a 3-1 hole against St. Louis in the NLCS.

A day after Pablo Sandoval homered three times, the favored Tigers wondered what other way they could lose. Prince Fielder was thrown out at the plate by a hair and moments later pitcher Doug Fister was struck squarely in the head by Blanco's line drive, a ball hit so hard that it caromed into shallow center field.

"They asked me the typical concussion questions," Fister said. "I'm not concerned. I have a minor bump. According to my dad, my whole life his saying has always been if I got hit in the head I'd be OK. That's how I take it."

The 6-foot-8 Fister managed to stay on the mound, and even excelled. Bumgarner more than matched him, however, allowing just two hits before the San Francisco bullpen closed it out before another pulsating crowd.

Santiago Casilla pitched a perfect eighth and Sergio Romo worked the ninth for a save in



San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey tags Detroit Tigers' Prince Fielder out at home during the second inning of Game 2 of baseball's World Series Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012, in San Francisco.

the combined two-hitter, leaving Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera and his team in a huge hole heading back to Comerica Park. Anibal Sanchez will start for the Tigers against Ryan Vogelsong in Detroit.

"That's the way baseball is. When things are going well, things are bouncing your way," Giants second baseman Marco Scutaro said. "If things aren't going well, you just keep battling and playing hard. No one is taking anything for granted."

Even so, several dozen members of the Giants family came onto the field at AT&T Park well after the final out to pose for pictures, wanting to savor what they hope is the Giants' last home game of the year.

Blanco, meanwhile, was able to celebrate a single that rolled 45 feet, if that.

"I was joking with (coach) Roberto Kelly when I got to first base, 'We practiced that today,'" Blanco said. "That was a perfect bunt. I wasn't really trying to do that. I think it was just meant to be and I'm thankful that I did it."

The Tigers looked rusty at the

plate, maybe still lost following a five-day layoff after an ALCS sweep of the Yankees. Cabrera hopped up in frustration after Sandoval snared his line drive to third.

"Well, what are you going to do about it?" Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "We got two hits tonight. I'm certainly not going to sit up here and rip my offense because last night I thought we had some pretty good swings. Cabrera hit a bullet tonight."

Bumgarner had something to do with the Tigers' troubles, too.

Bumped from the NLCS rotation after two poor postseason starts, he returned with a flourish. The left-hander struck out eight and looked as sharp as he did in the 2010 World Series when, as a 21-year-old rookie, he stopped Texas in Game 4 on the way to a championship.

"Just able to make pitches," Bumgarner said. "I hadn't done a very good job of making pitches this postseason so far and this is a team that you're not going to be able to afford to miss with."

"They hit some balls hard, but luckily we were in the right

spot," he said.

Along with his bunt, Blanco might have hit the hardest ball of the game - the liner that nailed Fister in the second inning. The ball struck the right side of his head and deflected on the fly to shallow center field.

Fister showed no visible effect from the blow - in fact, some in the crowd wondered whether the ball perhaps glanced off his glove because Fister stayed on his feet. Only when fans saw replays did groans echo around the ballpark.

Leyland, pitching coach Jeff Jones and a trainer went to the mound, and Fister insisted on staying in the game. He walked the next batter to load the bases with two outs, but retired Bumgarner on a popup, starting a streak of 12 straight hitters set down by Fister.

"Well, if you'd have been out there, it was something to see," Leyland said. "Because the trainer was saying, 'Where are you?' 'San Francisco.' 'What game is it?' 'Game No. 2.'"

"I don't want to make light of it, but it was kind of comical really because Doug was right on

with everything. But I was scared to death when it happened."

The game remained scoreless until the seventh, right after Colin Hanks, the son of actor Tom Hanks - a former peanut vendor at the nearby Oakland Coliseum - sang "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" on the field.

Pence led off with a single and Fister departed, getting lots of hugs in the dugout. Rookie reliever Drew Smyly walked Brandon Belt on a full-count pitch and Blanco's bunt loaded the bases with no outs.

The Tigers kept their infield back up the middle, and had no play at the plate on Crawford's bouncer.

"We felt like we played double-play depth because we felt like we couldn't give them two runs. That's why we did that, and we got the double play," Leyland said.

"To be honest with you, we were absolutely thrilled to come out of that inning with one run. Absolutely thrilled. I mean, we had to score anyway."

Pence added the insurance run the next inning with his fly-ball off Octavio Dotel.

Fielder fizzles in Game 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Prince Fielder hasn't provided the meaty production the Detroit Tigers expect.

"Obviously they're not going to throw us center cuts all day," the burly slugger said.

His first two World Series games after signing a \$214 million contract have been forgettable. No RBIs. One hit, a single at that.

And he was thrown out at the plate in the second inning Thursday night when he tried to score from first base on a double, a key play in the Tigers' 2-0 loss to San Francisco that sent Detroit home with a 2-0 World Series deficit.

"Once again when we hit the ball hard they made good plays," Fielder said. "That combination is pretty deadly."

Fielder is fizzling, hitting just .205 for the Tigers this postseason with one home run and three RBIs in 11 games. Those meager numbers have dropped him to .198 (19 for 96) in his postseason career. Quite a contrast to his first regular season in Motown, when he batted .313 with 30 homers and 108 RBIs.

Miguel Cabrera, batting in the No. 3 hole ahead of Fielder, was 1 for 5 with one RBI during the two games in San Francisco.

Detroit had its chances. After Omar Infante reached on an infield single leading off the fourth, Cabrera lined to Pablo Sandoval, who made a leaping, backhand catch at third base, and Fielder fled to Gregor Blanco on the left-field warning track.

Cabrera walked in the seventh and Fielder hit a comebacker that lefty Madison Bumgarner turned into a 1-6-3 double play.

"We got two hits tonight. I'm certainly not going to sit up here and rip my offense because last night I thought we had some pretty good swings," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "Cabrera hit a bullet tonight. We had the unfortunate play at the plate early, so no, I think our offense is fine."

Fielder and the Tigers had a chance to go ahead early. Fielder was hit on the right shoulder by Bumgarner's pitch in the second, and Delmon Young followed with a double down the left-field line.

After the ball ricocheted off the wall in foul territory and back into left field, third base coach Gene Lamont signaled for Fielder to keep running. Blanco threw to second baseman Marco Scutaro, standing about 15 feet behind third base, and Scutaro threw home. Giants catcher Buster Posey tagged Fielder on the rear end.

Cardinals don't expect Lohse, Berkman back



ST. LOUIS (AP)—Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak says it's unlikely the team can re-sign 16-game winner Kyle Lohse and doesn't see a spot for Lance Berkman even in a reduced role.

Lohse led the majors in winning percentage, going 16-3, and was among the league leaders with a 2.79 ERA. The Cardinals appear to have a full rotation plus young prospects such as Shelby Miller and Trevor Rosenthal.

"I suspect the free agent market

is going to treat him very kindly," Mozeliak said Thursday. "And when you see the depth that we have coming, it's not something I'm prepared to rule out today, but I would say it's probably unlikely at this time."

The 36-year-old Berkman hasn't decided whether he'll retire after playing in just 32 games and totaling 81 at-bats while slowed by knee trouble. He hit .259 with two homers and seven RBIs. In 2011, Berkman was NL comeback player of the year when he hit .301 with

31 homers and 94 RBIs.

Earlier in the postseason, Berkman said he'd probably decide whether he'll try to keep playing in a month or two, depending on interest from other teams but joked he didn't want to keep playing "for \$500,000 with Seattle." Mozeliak said the two have not spoken about the future.

"It's hard to imagine us finding a fit for him here," Mozeliak said. "I don't know what his expectations are, what he envisions his role being, but clearly getting every-day at-bats for the

St. Louis Cardinals would be very remote."

The defending champions ended up one victory shy of a repeat trip to the World Series, squandering a 3-1 lead over the San Francisco Giants in the NL championship series.

One person who is definitely gone is bullpen coach Dyar Miller. Mozeliak said Miller was surprised when informed he would not be kept and added he wasn't certain whether Miller would be reassigned to the minors where he's been a

long-time presence.

Mozeliak said manager Mike Matheny had input on the coaching change, as he will on the replacement. Both hope the new coach will come from inside the organization. Mozeliak said the staff was assembled quickly in mid-November last fall after Matheny was hired as Tony La Russa's successor.

"I think when we look at this long term, we definitely want to have Mike be able to put some of his fingerprints on this," Mozeliak said.

Martin, Buccaneers race past Vikings, 36-17



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Traveling to Minnesota to play on a Thursday night was supposed to be tough for Tampa Bay.

Rookie Doug Martin ran around the field as if he didn't want to leave.

Martin racked up 214 total yards - including a career-high 135 rushing - and two touchdowns, and the Buccaneers romped to a 36-17 victory to hand the Vikings their first home loss this season.

"It was pretty fun. I'm not going to lie," said Martin, who took a screen pass 64 yards for a score, one of Josh Freeman's three touchdown passes, to give Tampa Bay (3-4) a 27-10 lead 1:21 into the second half.

Then Martin, the first-round draft pick from Boise State, capped a drive of more than 9 minutes with a 1-yard muscle into the end zone midway through the fourth quarter.

"It's hard to come from college to the NFL," Martin said. "The speed of the game is definitely increased, and this is a feel thing. You're looking for that rhythm, as a running back, getting comfortable in the offense and having that game-time experience. I'm definitely there, right where I need to be."

Adrian Peterson had a season-long 64-yard run for a score that brought the Vikings (5-3) to 30-17, but his lost fumble in Minnesota territory in the second quarter led directly to a touchdown.

"It can get frustrating sometimes, but you can't show that during the game. You've got to stay focused, stay resilient," Peterson said. "I feel like we did that, but we just weren't able to continue with it and stay on a roll with it."

The Bucs, the second visiting team to win on a Thursday night in seven games this season, revived their strug-



Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Doug Martin (22) breaks a tackle by Minnesota Vikings defensive tackle Letroy Guion (98) during a 64-yard touchdown reception in the second half of an NFL football game Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012, in Minneapolis.

gling pass rush with three sacks and flustered Christian Ponder with a heavy dose of blitzes. Ponder finished 19 for 35 for 251 yards, one touchdown and a late interception.

With a 13-point lead, just trying to keep that clock running as quickly as possible, the Bucs could've gone conservative, but they refused to settle for a punt. Starting at their own 13 with 1:12 left in the third quarter, they plowed their way up the field—Freeman completed four third-and-long passes—and finished off the game with Martin's

third-and-goal touchdown run with 7:03 remaining.

"Ah, he is definitely an asset to our football team," cornerback Ronde Barber said. "For a young guy to have that kind of vision, to have that kind of patience as a runner, it's pretty impressive."

Freeman went 19 for 36 for 262 yards and, most importantly, no turnovers. Mike Williams had one of the touchdowns and 68 yards on six receptions, and the Bucs held the ball for nearly 38 of the 60 minutes.

With two games apiece against division rivals Chicago and Green Bay plus road trips to Seattle and Houston in the second half of their schedule, the Vikings have quite the challenge waiting for them and their strong start after Thanksgiving.

They faced an important test in this second half, too, after taking the clear advantage they had as the home team in this matchup and handing it over to the Buccaneers.

"There are so few opportunities in the NFL to ride that momentum, and

we've got to take advantage of them," Ponder said.

Their first three possessions were three-and-outs, Ponder started 0 for 5, Jerome Simpson lost a fumble after a short catch near midfield. The Bucs turned that into the second of Connor Barth's three field goals and took a 13-0 lead.

"It's always good to have a fast start, especially playing in an environment like this one. I think it makes things a lot easier down the road," Freeman said.

Harvin finally gave the Vikings some life by grabbing a screen pass for a 32-yard gain and then pivoting to haul in sideline pass over his shoulder for an 18-yard touchdown catch.

But Peterson, who was having no trouble reaching the Tampa Bay secondary with almost every run through the line, had the ball stripped after a spin move by the veteran Barber. The Bucs got the ball at the Minnesota 37, and Williams made a tricky catch in the corner of the end zone for a 3-yard score and a 20-7 lead.

The Buccaneers won only two of new coach Greg Schiano's first six games, but all four of their losses were by seven points or less. So here was their chance to finally enjoy a comfortable victory, setting up a second half that was just as eventful as the first.

Martin caught a screen pass and sped straight through the Vikings, escaping Chad Greenway's tackle and not stopping until he reached the end zone. The Bucs used a three-and-out by the Vikings to add three more points and stretch the lead to 30-10.

Peterson made up for his earlier fumble, though, by matching Martin's big play with one of his own, sprung by a pancake block from Simpson to reach the end zone and bring the Vikings back in it.

Stern to retire as NBA Commissioner in 2014



NEW YORK (AP)—David Stern spent nearly 30 years growing the NBA, turning a league that couldn't even get its championship series on live prime-time TV into a projected \$5 billion a year industry.

Confident the NBA is in good shape and certain he has found someone who can make it even better, Stern is ready to end one of the most successful and impactful careers in sports history.

Stern will retire as commissioner Feb. 1, 2014, 30 years to the day after taking charge of the league, and be replaced by Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver.

"I decided that things are in great shape and there's an organization in place that will ultimately be led by Adam that is totally prepared to take it to the next level," Stern said Thursday during a press conference following the league's board of governors meeting.

It's hard to be any better than Stern, perhaps the model sports commissioner.

Name an important policy in the NBA—drug testing, salary cap, even a dress code—and Stern had a hand in it. A lawyer by trade, he was a fearless negotiator against players and referees, but also their biggest defender any time he felt they were unfairly criticized.

Kobe questionable for Lakers' opener

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers are not sure if Kobe Bryant is going to play in Tuesday's opener against the Dallas Mavericks.

Bryant is nursing a bruised and strained right foot. He did not make the trip to San Diego for the Lakers' final preseason game on Thursday night against the Sacramento Kings.

"He came in and got some treatment for his foot," coach Mike Brown said. "It didn't make sense for him to make the bus trip because he needs to elevate the foot. And the 2 1/2-hour ride down and back would not be good."

"I know he's hurt and I don't know exactly what that means. I know he has a bruised foot, but I don't as for daily updates. He's a tough guy and

"For all the things you've done for the NBA and for sports generally, I think there's no doubt that you'll be remembered as the best of all-time as commissioners go and you've set the standard, I think not even just for sports league commissioners, but for CEOs in any industry," Silver told Stern sitting to his left on a podium.

Stern told owners of his plans during their two days of meetings, and the board unanimously decided Silver

one of the toughest guys I've ever been around."

Lakers center Dwight Howard was scheduled to play against the Kings. Howard is recovering from back surgery.

Meanwhile, New York Knicks center Tyson Chandler left Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum on Long Island Wednesday night on crutches after suffering an apparent sprained knee, according to a report on NBCSports.com's Pro Basketball Talk.

Citing a tweet from the New York Daily News' Frank Isola, Chandler's knee will undergo an MRI on Thursday to determine the severity and extent of the injury.

According to reports, early in the game Chandler banged knees with

would be his successor. Owners will begin negotiations with the 50-year-old Silver in hopes of having a contract completed by their next meeting in April.

Stern, who turned 70 last month, became commissioner on Feb. 1, 1984. He has been the NBA's longest-serving commissioner, establishing the league's brand around the world, presiding over team expansion and overseeing the establishment of the WNBA

the New Jersey Nets' Gerald Wallace and fell to the court. Chandler was helped to the locker room and did not return to the game. Team officials cited the reason as a "sore knee." A tweet by Mark Berman of the New York Post said Knicks sources told him that the injury was not believed to be serious.

The Knicks, who are already short Chandler's backup, Marcus Camby, who is also out with an injury, open the regular season on Nov. 1 against the host Nets in their new home in Brooklyn, N.Y. If Chandler is out for any appreciable amount of time, Rasheed Wallace could potentially take his place, but he's not quite ready or in shape for prolonged minutes just yet.

and the NBA Development League.

"There is no debate that David Stern has earned his spot in the pantheon of sports commissioners. Deservedly, his name and reputation will always be synonymous with the phenomenal growth and success of the NBA over the last three decades," union executive director Billy Hunter said in a statement. "His absence will surely be felt by anyone connected to the NBA and the sport of basketball,

although clearly the league will be left in very capable hands with the appointment of Adam Silver as the next commissioner."

Seven franchises have been added under Stern and the league has seen a 30-fold increase in revenues. Stern insisted the NBA have a presence on social media, and the league and players have more than 270 million likes and followers on Facebook and Twitter.

"There are all kinds of other business metrics we could look at that would define David as one of the great business leaders of our time," Silver said.

Stern said he decided on his plans about six months ago, having guided the league through a lockout that ended nearly a year ago. He didn't want to leave until the labor deal was completed or until he was confident there was a successor in place, and both are done. Silver has been the league's No. 2 since 2006, and both Stern and league owners praise his abilities.

"I don't know what else to say other than to recite what I told the owners yesterday in executive session," Stern said. "I told them that it's been a great run, it will continue for another 15 months, that the league is in, I think, terrific condition."

Stern is the one who got it there, taking over what was a second-rate league with little-to-no TV presence—the NBA Finals were on tape delay in the early 1980s—and making basketball one of the world's most popular sports.

Babauta earns back-to-back CWGA Ace honors

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NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	4	3	0	.571	217	163
Miami	3	3	0	.500	120	117
N.Y. Jets	3	4	0	.429	159	170
Buffalo	3	4	0	.429	171	227

South

Houston	6	1	0	.857	216	128
Indianapolis	3	3	0	.500	117	158
Tennessee	3	4	0	.429	149	238
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	88	164

North

Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	174	161
Pittsburgh	3	3	0	.500	140	132
Cincinnati	3	4	0	.429	166	187
Cleveland	1	6	0	.143	147	180

West

Denver	3	3	0	.500	170	138
San Diego	3	3	0	.500	148	137
Oakland	2	4	0	.333	113	171
Kansas City	1	5	0	.167	104	183

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	.714	205	137
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	103	125
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	113	133
Washington	3	4	0	.429	201	200

South

Atlanta	6	0	0	1.000	171	113
Tampa Bay	3	4	0	.429	184	153
New Orleans	2	4	0	.333	176	182
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	106	144

North

Chicago	5	1	0	.833	161	78
Minnesota	5	3	0	.625	184	167
Green Bay	4	3	0	.571	184	155
Detroit	2	4	0	.333	133	150

West

San Francisco	5	2	0	.714	165	100
Arizona	4	3	0	.571	124	118
Seattle	4	3	0	.571	116	106
St. Louis	3	4	0	.429	130	141

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Lorraine Babauta nabbed her second consecutive CNMI Women's Golf Association Ace of the Month plum after topping the October tournament held early this month at Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Babauta, who bested a 17-player September field to win last month's event, mustered out another triumph over 11 other competitors just five weeks later. Since she already qualified for CWGA's season-ending Ace of Aces tournament with her initial win, Babauta took the points and added 15 to her total. An update to the current point standings will be released next month.

Babauta managed a stable position at the start as her 46 on the front nine of Laolao's west course left her tied at the turn with eventual runner-up Yuko

Togawa, Mio Kim, and Sun Suk Kim, as all four trailed pack leader Shiori Onoue by a stroke.

Babauta kept chomping at the bit and worked out a raw 44 on the back side for a gross 90 that adjusted into an even 80 net score after deducting her handicap, and she went on to nose out Togawa in the end by a stroke.

Togawa did all she could and finished the latter half of her round with an even 40, but her 5 handicap fell just short of victory. Third place went to Kyung Ran Seo, who scratched a pair of raw 50s that worked into an 81 net.

Togawa earned 14 points and Seo got 13, while Masayo Miyamoto (48 and 44), who came out with an 82 net, finished fourth and earned 12 points.

Notably, Onoue finished the back with a 44 for a net 84 and settled for fifth place (11 points), while Mio Kim had a 50 on the back and also netted an 84, but fell to seventh place (9 points). Suk Kim faded at the finish with an-



Babauta

other 46 on the back for a net 86 that dropped her to 11th place (1 point).

The other monthly Aces include May's Noriko Togawa (84 net/10 points), who finished the past round in between Onoue and Mio Kim; June's Xiao Lin Wang; July's Sherlyln Jones

(84-net/8 points); and August's Me Ae Jeon. Other results from this month include Gil Ah Kim (84-net/7 points), Lou Kim (85-net/6 points) and Kimoko Abe (87-net/1 point).

Meanwhile, CWGA's November Ace is scheduled on Nov. 10, also at Laolao.

Established in 2007, the CWGA is a non-profit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI. The CWGA utilizes a standard net scoring format, where a predetermined point system is tallied during the season.

First place is awarded 15 points, in addition to a bid into the Ace of Aces finale tournament, while 14 points are awarded to second place and so on down through the Top 10 finishers with the remaining participants allotted one point.

For more information, contact Terry Guerrero at 285-8374, Bennet Seman at 483-0126, Yuko Togawa at 287-9856 or Delores Yamagishi at 483-3195.

HI-FIVE

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long jumper in the ensuing play, but Hi-Five got another possession when Alex Standish took the offensive board and PIC's Brett Sutton tapped the ball out of Standish' hands. Ponce Rasa then made an undergoal stab off the in-bound play to tie the match, 71-all, 55 seconds to go.

PIC had two chances to regain the lead, but faltered on both occasions. Darwin Barbo missed the first attempt as his fade-away shot rattled out the rim. Bart Demapan collared the offensive board, but muffed the putback and that had been the story for the PIC forward, as he missed a lot of point-blank shots in the second half.

After Demapan's failed attempt, Hi-Five went for a fastbreak play with Dan Barcinas driving to the center lane before dishing the leather to the left wing to a cutting Rasa, who then made a touch pass to Peters at the right wing

for the latter's banked shot.

PIC sued for time in the last 22.5 seconds, but when the game resumed, it was not clear who was taking the crucial shot until Salem went for a kamikaze drive to the center, bumped into Hi-Five defenders, and lost his balance and his target, too. Hi-Five controlled the rebound after the miss and PIC was forced to foul Standish in the last 4.5 seconds.

Standish went 0-for-2 from the foul line, but made up for his booboos when he sprinted to PIC's frontcourt and intercepted Demapan's pitch to Sutton.

Standish, Peters, and even John Acosta, who filled in for the injured Peter Mendiola, stood their ground against PIC's frontliners. Although Sutton, who was nursing a knee injury, scored 12 points, he nailed no more than two field goals in each of the four quarters and was held to only 4 points in the first half. Demapan was also hardly a factor in the first three quarters where PIC fell behind by as much as 12 points, 51-39,

while Barbo had to earn his points from the foul line.

To make matters worse for PIC, its backcourt also played flat with Abuel scoring only 2 points and Abuy, who sat out the entire fourth quarter, drilling only two triples.

In contrast, Hi-Five's Rasa, Barcinas, and Jesus Iguel supported their big men with a balance offense, as the trio combined for 42 markers.

In the first semis game, a 30-point explosion in the second half allowed Mobil to foil Ashley's upset bid.

Mobil was behind at the end of the first period, 18-25, when it went to business in the second canto, outgunning Ashley's 30-13, to grab the driver's seat, 48-38. Errol Peredo surprisingly led Mobil's second-quarter surge, firing 8 in that frame, while three of his teammates added at least two baskets each.

With Mobil's points coming from every player it fielded in the game, its lead ballooned to as high as 23 in the second half and the defending cham-

pion went on to gain a return trip to the finals.

Mobil and Hi-Five square off in the winner-take-all finale tonight at 7:30pm. PIC and Ashley's duel in the consolation game at 6pm.

First Game

Mobil 98 – Peredo 20, Gamboa 16, Rabauliman 12, Estolas 11, Basila 10, Ruloked 7, Camacho 6, Tumaquip 6, Gapor 3, Fernando 2.

Ashley's/Brabu 77 – Inos 18, Mangali 17, Talania 10, Aquino 9, De Dios 8, Norita 6, Paraiso 4, Manalo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-25, 48-38, 71-56, 98-77.

Second Game

Hi-Five 73 – Barcinas 17, Rasa 14, Peters 11, Iguel 11, Standish 9, Villacrusis 5.

PIC 71 – Barbo 27, Demapan 16, Sutton 12, Salem 7, Abuy 6, Abuel 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-15, 43-36, 59-49, 73-71.

free throws before the third quarter buzzer to keep the Rollers 2 within striking distance.

The Rollers 2 managed to cling to its lead throughout the fourth quarter, as Malonzo, Morales and Prince Factor mustered 7 markers against Hi-5's defensive front that just would not go away.

Malonzo bobbed and weaved for a game-high 18 points, while Feria led Hi-5's heartbreaker with his 10 markers.

Rollers 2 39 – Malonzo 18, Ano 8, Morales 8, Espinosa 2, Factor 2, Iglesias 2, Nakayama 1.

Hi-5 33 – Feria 10, Macahito 6, Hockett 6, Cristobal 4, Hofschneider 4, Cabaltica 3.

Scoring by quarters: 8-7, 17-12, 27-25, 39-33.

double-elimination playoff tournament will be held on Nov. 16 and 17. If Rota and Tinian's representative squads appear, they will automatically be issued the third and fifth seeds on the bracket via a random drawing.

KHS 59 – Ada 38, Halstead 12, Pelep 3, Lizama 2, Santos 2.

MCS 51 – Lebria 25, M. Kautz 10, Demapan 6, Taylor 6, Wu 4.

Scoring by quarters: 14-21, 29-31, 37-43, 59-51.

COSMOS

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before leaving the game with still five minutes left due to injury, while Mae Ito canned the other goal for the winning team.

Joining Pagarao and Ito on the squad are Maica Aniana, Ciaralyn Apostol, Jhaneeka Atalig, Mary Fem Urena, Melody Johnson, Charlene Lizardo, Michelle Masga, Elizabeth Phan, Tiana Ranjo, Mikky Vargas, and Yvonne Indalecio. Patricia Coleman coaches Cosmos.

Playing for Rowdies are Kimberly Ada, Jeralyn Castillo, Elaine Enriguez, Phalai Frink, Marielle Gariguez, Kaisa Lucido, Rachael Masga, Dianne Pablo, Gabrielle Race, Masami Sato, Alexa Vergara, and Julian Estopado. Ruselle Zapanta is Rowdies coach, but Jerishwin Angeles called the shots for the team in last weekend's opener, as the former was still in Malaysia playing in the 26th Asian Intercity Bowling Championships.

Gariguez recorded her first goal in the U21 league, while Frink also made it to the scoreboard in the closing minutes of the game.

Meanwhile, Week 6 of the M-League (men's open division) will be played tomorrow with Tan Holding's FC (1-1-1 win-draw-loss record) taking on Inter Godfather's (1-1-1) in the Division 1 game at 2pm. Then at 4pm, Korean Football Association on Saipan (1-1-0) will face Paire FC (0-0-2). In the lone Division 2 match at 6pm, MP United (2-0-0) duels Kanoa Resort (0-0-3). Week 6 action in the M-League will then close out on Wednesday with a 6:30pm game between MP United and Matansa FC (4-0-0)

ROLLERS

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an unsportsmanlike conduct, which occurred with less than 20 seconds left in regulation, disrupted its strategy.

Short on time, Hi-5 had its back to the wall and had to foul to get the ball back. The tactic worked early on, but Rollers 2 later read the ploy and called a timeout to move the ball to its side of the court and strategically placed its shooters on the floor to carry out a written play.

Hi-5 knew it had to continue fouling in order to stay alive, so Frank Macahito hacked the Rollers 2's Michael Espinosa moments after the latter received the inbound pass, but the former was slapped with a technical foul for the tough infraction.

Espinosa drained both shots and his teammate JP Iglesias dropped in a final pair from the stripe soon after to put it away for the Rollers 2.

Though it was not exactly its prettiest victory, hats off to the Rollers 2 for making its free throws in the final seconds to preserve the streak.

Both teams started slow, as they felt each other out and the Rollers 2 came away on the top side of a paper-thin margin, 8-7, after getting 4 points each from Irvyn Malonzo and Jeron Ano.

Ano added a pair of baskets in the second quarter and shooting guard CJ Morales chimed in 3 points, as the Rollers 2 managed some breathing room at halftime, 17-12.

Hi-5's captain Frank Macahito made a couple of buckets in the first quarter,

but went cold in the second and the team drew only three free throws from Leo Cristobal to face a 5-point half-time deficit. Points came at a premium in what turned out to be a defensive contest in the second canto and though Hi-5 trailed since essentially in the first three minutes of the game, it managed to keep the stakes to just two possessions, heading into the break.

Malonzo took the reins for the Rollers 2 when they returned to the floor and scored all of his team's 10 points in the third quarter. However, Hi-5 received contributions from five different players on the other end, as it fought its way back to within a basket, 25-27.

Emerson Feria led the charge for Hi-Five with his 6 points, while Cristobal and Richard Hofschneider made

cashed in on breakaway layups to complete their come-from-behind win.

Lebria scrambled for 8 points in the final minutes, but the rest of the Lady Knights could not catch any good bounces off the rim.

Halstead's 10 markers helped push the Lady Ayuyus over the hump, but it was Ada's tremendous 38-point performance that carried the group through the grind. Lebria turned in 25 on the short end.

Meanwhile, the league's regular season wraps up this Wednesday, while the

Ada scrambled for all 8 of the Lady Ayuyus' markers in the third quarter and added 8 more in the fourth. To Ada's relief, she got a couple of baskets from Kelsey Lizama, Anzuko Halstead, and Janet Kaipat in the final canto, while the Lady Knights went cold on the other end.

At the start of the payoff period, Kagman's foursome each netted a shot to knot the score at 45-all, just over midway through the frame, and it was all Lady Ayuyus from there, as Halstead and Ada

LADY

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Knights an early 21-14 favor. However, Anna Ada came out for Kagman in the second quarter and her 12 points put the Lady Ayuyus back to within a basket at midpoint, 29-31.

Michelle Kautz stepped in after the pause and helped Lebria, as the former scored 8 points to stretch the Lady Knights' lead to 6, 43-37, heading into the final period.



**With small ball,
Giants win
for 2-0 lead**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Martin, Bucca-
neers race past
Vikings, 36-17**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hi-Five vs Mobil in Emon Lodge finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hi-Five gave Pacific Islands Club another heartbreaker.

After crushing PIC's dream for a perfect regular season, Hi-Five this time denied its nemesis entry to the finals of the 2012 Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League-Docomo Brotherhood Cup after eking out a thrilling 73-71 victory in their semis duel last Thursday night at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hi-Five played unselfish basketball in the closing seconds to set up Charlie Peters for the go-ahead basket, while PIC's Niko Salem took a forced shot, allowing the former to clinch the second finals berth and set up a title showdown with defending champion Mobil. Mobil cruised to the finals earlier after dominating Ashley's/Brabu Pharmacy in the first semis game, 98-77.

While the first semis match was decided as early as the third period, the second one went down to the wire with PIC threatening to complete a come-from-behind win after Wowie Abuel's layup gave the pennant champion its first taste of the lead, 71-69, 1:05 left in the fourth.

James Villacrusis muffed a

**See HI-FIVE on
Page 27**



Hi-Five's Ponce Rasa, center, pulls up for a shot against PIC's Brett Sutton, right, and Bart Demapan during their semis game in the Emon Lodge caging last Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Hi-5's Leo Cristobal gets swallowed up by Rollers 2 defenders Prince Factor, left, and Jeron Ano during their U20 game in the Rotary caging last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rollers 2 sways to seventh straight win

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Rollers 2 held off Hi-5's big fourth quarter rally to keep its unblemished record in the U20 division of the 21st Annual Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League.

Hi-5 gave its all in last

Wednesday's game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, but fell a little short as its fifth loss in seven games was by far the hardest to chew, while Rollers 2 rolled to its seventh win in as many games.

At one point, Hi-5 trailed by only a deuce, 31-33, with about a minute and a half left on the clock when a crafty timeout and a costly technical foul off

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Lady Ayuyus hound Lady Knights

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Kagman High School's Lady Ayuyus chased down Mount Carmel School's Lady Knights in the fourth quarter to run off with a 59-51 victory in their varsity division game in the 2012-2013 Marianas Inter-scholastic Sports Organization Girls Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Kagman trailed at the end of the first three quarters before making a rally in the fourth canto to avenge its loss to Mt. Carmel earlier in the season



and improve to a 2-3 record. The Lady Knights dropped to a 1-3 slate.

Like the pair's last meeting, their second duel remained very close for the majority of the match, but this time, the Lady Ayuyus did not fade down the homestretch and willed their way to victory.

Kaylani Lebria stormed out of the gate with a 13-point tear after the tip to give the Lady

See LADY on Page 27

Kagman High School's Anna Ada streaks to the basket against a Mount Carmel School defender during their varsity game in the MISO caging last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Cosmos' Charlene Lizardo, left, blocks a kick from Rowdies' Gabrielle Race during the second half of the opening game in the Women's U21 Division of the M-League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Cosmos slips past Rowdies in U21 opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Women's U21 Division of the M-League kicked off last Saturday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field with

Cosmos edging Rowdies in the opener, 3-2.

Lalaine Pagarao scored two goals in the first half for Cosmos

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